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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

We resume our remarks on the several questions occupying the country's attention—in the absence of any one decisive event claiming sole discussion, for as yet the Peace Conferences offer little that is tangible to comment upon.

The House of Commons is not prepared, we see, to take the step of pronouncing against the present observance of Sunday. No doubt the motives which actuate the petitioners in favour of the sanctity of the Sabbath are praiseworthy enough. But, apart from all these motives, we are for so ancient an institution as the devotion of one day in seven to spiritual purposes and rest. It is right abstractedly, and it is right practically; for our tendency at present in England is to work too hard, to sacrifice everything to material prosperity under the influence of brutal greed; while "Sunday," well-observed or ill-observed, is still, at the worst of times, a protest that we have souls as well as bodies. But, though we think this irrefragable, we wish our petitioning friends would look a little more practically at the actual state into which our Sundays have got. You cannot keep them holy by an Act of Parliament, while the condition of the people tends to their desecration. Here, in London, for instance, how is Sunday spent? There is a vast deal of mere idleness; in summer-time the suburbs swarm; and there is in some places no little profligacy. It is clearly the business of the preacher to mend all this—Sunday being, in a peculiar way, *his day*, and given up to him by statesmen, lecturers, journalists, &c., for the purpose. If he neglects or badly discharges this function, plain secular persons cannot be blamed for wishing to have their way tried of mending matters. Sermons we cannot give, they may argue, but museums, picture-galleries, fresh air, we have. And, as the day cannot, by many people, be spent worse, these will tend, at all events, to make it be spent better. If we of the "Illustrated Times" found people would not read us, we should begin to be afraid that we were ourselves to blame, and so with the functionary of a church or a chapel. Indeed, some excellent ministers of the Church have begun to preach in the open air, and that in the lowest neighbourhoods, rather than lose all hold on the hearts of the people. Let all who call themselves spiritual guides make the most of the protection which the law still gives them; or we much fear that more worldly and reasonable considerations will carry the day.

In the matter of Peerages for Life, the people seem to have thought that nothing was at stake but some ceremonious rights of the Peers. A very great oversight! The people are as much concerned in this question (if they knew it) as their Lordships. The point at stake has been, how the House shall be recruited? and it has been recruited constantly from the popular ranks, till a thorough-going "baron of England" (who would pass muster in Austria) is as rare as the animal which he carries on his shield. But for the future, if their Lordships can insure it, the Crown shall be limited in its prerogative to such persons only as their House likes, not such as the Crown chooses to think fit for them—or as a popular ministry shall find it expedient. The House is to judge of its own cause. It will have nobody but rich men; but what poor man (and a man in England is poor, with a revenue sufficient for a Minister in France) will incur the sneer of the great-grandson of a contractor, or expose his children to that of the young Fitz-Saucissons of the next generation? All things are fast ripening in England towards oligarchy. This old flower of the Crown is to be brushed away; another blow at the *prestige* of the Crown. Many of the real old nobility are poor; more power to the parvenues of rank and money! In due time, all authority will be lodged in the hands of a few great families, and their hirelings; and then, it is only a question of a war or two, and a harvest or two, before we sink into a second-rate kingdom—if kingdom that country can be called where the king is nobody. But, what of all this, if a few great lawyers can, meanwhile, saddle the country with their progeny? It is odd, by-the-by, that the descendants of legal families cut so poor a figure in these debates. Lord Winchelsea was reduced to uttering one miserable innuendo, only, against Prince Albert, who is as superior to him in ability, as in everything else. Lord Derby and Lord Grey are both of the ancient feudal families; and it was kind of Lord Derby to come forward in aid of men like the agitators, as if their peerages put them on a level with himself. It was amusing to see the increased moderation of Lord Campbell after the curious discovery that he had deliberately approved Life Peerages in his "Lives of the Chancellors." He could not repudiate this awkward paragraph—more disagreeable, even, than his blunders about Bacon, or his exposed plagiarisms from Miss Strickland.

Altogether, the position is edifying! The highest lawyer in the

kingdom—the Lord Chancellor—deliberately tells the House that they violate the constitution by dishonouring the Queen's writ, and they agree to dishonour it. Of course, if this were persisted in, the constitution would be at a dead-lock. And though the Crown, backed up by the country, would soon bring the House of Lords to reason, things are in such a state, that no Minister dare advise it. Palmerston is not firm on the point. The social pressure is tremendous. There will be a compromise or a withdrawal; and "our old institutions" will have received another shake in the sight of Europe. All such disputes shake them.

As for the "Commission" which is to inquire into what is left of Lord Cardigan's military reputation, its composition, its secrecy, the known character of all such commissions, are quite sufficient to make us feel little curiosity about it. In fact, by the time it has to report, we shall either be carrying on the war, with other blunderers to look after, or the peace will have been concluded, and a hundred new questions be occupying the public mind. In either case, Lord Cardigan will be as safe as he was on board the *Enchantress* yacht, while his men were dying. Every such hero's best chance is, that he is sure to be forgotten; and this is a piece of luck which his Lordship is pretty certain to attain.

In spite of recent proceedings in the United States Congress, and the early violence against Great Britain by a legislator or two, we adhere to our opinion respecting the ultimate pacific settlement of the dispute. But these things ought to teach us to what hazards the peace of the world is exposed by the wildness of Yankee political mobs, and the firmness with which England (while polite, conciliatory, and indulgent) should always keep herself prepared from danger from all quarters. In spite of the approaching "peace-paper," which is, no doubt, to advocate disarming everywhere, we shall persist in urging it as our true policy, to be proud of, anxious about, and generally interested in—our military and naval establishments. This war will have done a great good, if it should prove to have taught us that, however great the value of commerce, neither the ideas which belong to it, nor the men who conduct it, are sufficient for the requirements of the government of great nations.

It will be a welcome day that brings us something definite from Paris. "Nicolai" will be a tough nut for the diplomatists to crack. But, while a fortress of that magnitude, with its dockyards



THE SULTAN AT LORD STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE'S FANCY DRESS BALL, CONSTANTINOPLE.



and storehouses, is with a half-day's reach of the Black Sea, those waters will be no safer from the Russian fleets than before. If the Conferences break up, it is likely to be on this point; if they do, all eyes will be turned on our navies in both seas, for on them will the next great moves devolve. If renewed, the war will be as hot again as ever in England. It is enough to make us pause, though, to see that Dundas has again got the Baltic Fleet!

THE SULTAN AT LORD DE REDCLIFFE'S BALL.

As soon as the surprising intelligence that the Sultan was to be present at the grand ball given by Lord de Redcliffe, on January 31, was received at the British Embassy in Constantinople, messengers and mercurial *attachés* were despatched in all directions to notify the event, and request the fashionables to assemble betimes in their fancy dresses. Accordingly, at eight p.m. the company mustered strong—nobles, notabilities, ministers, ex-ministers, the chiefs of the various corporations, the Greek and Armenian Patriarchs, the Grand Rabbi, all surrounded with their respective staffs and nationalities, the *élite* of European society in every imaginable colour and costume, naval and military officers of all grades and nations, in their glittering uniforms, thronged the state ball-room, the corridors, and every nook and corner of the spacious palace, exhibiting a most pleasing and unusually animated spectacle. The palace and avenues were brilliantly illuminated, and the long suite of apartments splendidly lit up and decorated.

About nine p.m., at the British *dépot* in the immediate vicinity of our Embassy, the booming of artillery was heard, and his Majesty, in a state carriage, appeared soon after, escorted by a detachment of British Lancers and a guard of honour, comprising officers of all ranks. The Imperial *corège* soon shot through the crowds which lined the streets, and the Sultan was received by Lord Redcliffe and all the *personnel* of the Embassy at the palace entrance, and surrounded by his courtiers and all the great functionaries, was conducted through the long suite of apartments, and seemed highly delighted with the novel and gay assemblage. His Majesty was attired in his *harmoni*, or state robe, the collar richly studded with brilliants, beneath which the order of Medjidie glittered, with the plaque and grand cordon of the Legion of Honour. He first entered a private apartment, and after a short delay re-appeared in the ball-room, and was conducted to an impromptu throne on a raised platform, with the diplomatic corps standing on the left, and on the right the Ministers and great officers of state. The Grand Vizier and French Ambassador were placed on either side, next the throne, and Lord Redcliffe did the honours of the ceremonial. In the course of the evening his Lordship presented to the Sultan the Hon. Misses Canning and Lady Redcliffe, who in her turn introduced Madame de Wittenbrück with her daughter, Miss Prokesch, and Madame de Souza, the Spanish Minister's lady, decked out in her national costume—and whose raven locks, dark eyes, shaded with long lashes, and Andalusian grace and symmetry of proportions, attracted universal admiration. Some simple quadrilles were danced in the immediate vicinity of the throne, with which the young Sovereign appeared much pleased, and addressed some gracious compliments to the ladies who figured on this occasion. Lastly, after a delay of about half an hour in the ball-room, the Sultan retired, and having partaken of refreshments in a private apartment, was conducted to his carriage by Lord Redcliffe, and a royal salute again greeted his Majesty in passing on his way to the imperial palace of Teheran.

"I had almost forgotten to mention," adds the correspondent who supplied the facts we have already given, "two little bits of *gaucherie* at the ball of the 31st, and enacted, much to my regret, by our own good folks of both genders. A gentleman in the immediate vicinity of the Sultan paraded himself in the costume of an Indian dervish—a class, you are perhaps aware, neither morally nor physically in good odour among the Turks. A lady also, who shall remain nameless, bethought herself of ascending the throne, after the departure of the Sultan, and exhibited her fine figure in this conspicuous post for some minutes to the admiring multitude, until warned of her indiscretion by some kind friend."

In the evening of February 4, the Sultan paid a visit to the French Embassy, also on the occasion of a ball. Whilst passing before a portrait of the Emperor, his Highness remarked:—"I am happy to see here the likeness of my august ally, and I feel the greatest satisfaction at my reception by his representative."

Another correspondent, writing on Feb. 8, says:—"The great scandal topic here is the indignation of the Sultan at Lord Stratford's conduct in compelling him to go to the masked ball at the British Embassy, in defiance of the strong opposition offered by his own people, especially by the Mahometan priesthood. The stories current, and indeed known to be correct, about this unarrested event would seem to surpass belief. It is said that when Lord Stratford announced to the Sultan that his presence would be required at a ball, his Majesty protested, with tears, against such an infringement of his dignity; but the Ambassador was inexorable, and, after many threats and much coercion, so stern a command was given that the Sultan should not fail to attend, that he was forced to yield an unwilling assent."

"Various surmises are afloat respecting this forced visit of the Sultan to the British Embassy, but that which is most generally accepted seems to be, that his Excellency, seeing in the distance the impending storm about his conduct to General Williams and the fall of Kars, was anxious to obtain some public mark of favour from the Sultan, in order that the people in England might believe him to be on good terms with the Porte—hence the ball and the imposed visit of the Sultan."

"After the honour paid to England, France claimed the same homage. And, accordingly, the Sultan's presence was required at another ball. On this occasion 10,000 French troops were drawn up between the French Embassy and the Imperial Palace. The numbers so alarmed the Sultan, that he hurried to pay his visit at seven o'clock. The French Ambassador was at dinner with his friends. However, they soon hurried into their uniforms, and received the heir of the Eastern Caesars. It was observed that he was not at all reconciled to Lord Stratford; and persons well informed on the subject assert that the Sultan requested that the British Ambassador might not be put at the same table with him."

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

COUNT BUOL was the bearer of an Austrian decoration, the Croix Etoile, from the Emperor of Austria to the Empress Eugénie. The decoration is exclusively conferred on ladies whose pedigree has during a long series of years been without spot or blemish; and the badge of the order in brilliant was accompanied by a letter from the Empress Caroline Augusta, who is Protectress and Superior of the Institution, in which it is said that this attention has been shown "in order to consolidate the intimate relations already subsisting between the two families."

The Countess de Montijo and the Duchess of Alba are about to visit Paris, in order to be near the Empress at the time of her accouchement. It is further stated that an Austrian Archduke will come to Paris to represent the Emperor of Austria at the baptism of the future heir of France.

The "Independence" says that some more political arrests have been made in the departments. Among other persons, a merchant of Marseilles, who was an assistant-mayor in 1848, has been arrested.

SPAIN.

GENERAL CARROBERT, according to a letter from Madrid, is to be appointed French Minister in that capital, in the room of the Marquis de Turgot.

The Spanish Government is much alarmed by the sudden departure of Gonzales Bravo, and some persons of his persuasion, for Paris, and apprehensive lest they should have gone thither to get up another insurrection.

AUSTRIA.

PRINCE GORTSCHAKOFF has handed to the Austrian Government a Note from Count Nesselrode, explaining the instructions upon which the Russian Plenipotentiaries at Paris are to act. These instructions are reported to be eminently favourable to the success of the negotiations, and as acknowledging the moderation exhibited by the Western Powers.

It is reported from St. Petersburg that M. Félix de Fonton, now in that capital, is appointed to replace Prince Gortschakoff as Russian Ambassador at Vienna. Prince Gortschakoff, who must not be confounded with

the Prince of that name formerly in the Crimea, and now Governor of Poand, will, it is said, retire into private life.

It is stated in the political circles of Vienna, that neither under the Bourbons nor under Louis Philippe, have the relations between the Courts of Vienna and Paris been more friendly or more intimate than they are at present. It was formerly the Czar Nicholas, but it is now the Emperor Napoleon III., who is the idol of the Court of Austria.

RUSSIA.

The illness of the Empress Mother has put an end to all the Court receptions at St. Petersburg, as well as to the rejoicings which followed the marriage of the Grand Duke Nicholas.

The Czar has ordered that his brothers, the two Grand Dukes, Nicholas and Michael, shall at once enter upon their respective functions, the former as Inspector of Engineers, and the latter as Master of the Ordnance.

An imperial ukase permits the importation of salt into Russia by the Austro-Moldavian frontier and Odessa, on payment of a duty of 19 kopecks per pood. Another Imperial ukase has ordered the immediate issue of Treasury bills, in seven series, amounting in the aggregate to 21,000,000 of roubles.

The Czar, it is said, will visit Warsaw almost immediately, in order to have speedier communication with his Envoys at Paris.

A letter from St. Petersburg states that up to the 14th ult. no orders had been given to the workmen employed in building the 131-gun steam line-of-battle ship, Witiaz, at Nicolaieff, to suspend their work. The concentration of the naval militia at Revel, Cronstadt, St. Petersburg, and Sveaborg, was still going on.

The fortifications being erected by Prince Labanow-Rostowsky for the defence of Genitchi, and of the bridge connecting the continent with the Spit of Arabat, are so far finished as to be able to withstand successfully any attack that might be attempted on the part of the French and English ships of war.

SARDINIA.

The Chamber of Commerce of Turin has decided that it would not be advisable at present to hold a Universal Exhibition in that city, but that the sixth exhibition of the manufactures of the kingdom is to take place in 1858 on a larger scale than usual, and that silks from all countries are to be admitted to it.

TURKEY.

ACCOUNTS of the 14th ult. state that Omar Pacha was coming to Constantinople, and that he had already sent his baggage before him. Some interpreted this rumour as a recall, others as a wish on his part to regain his lost ground at the Porte. The real state of the case is said to be, that he sent in, for the 999th time, his resignation, with the clause, as usual, that he would only remain with the army if certain conditions, which he had long ago urged, should be complied with. These conditions have reference to his position with regard to the Seraskierate, or Ministry of War, with which he has had a standing feud. Ismail Pacha is reported to have been sent to Asia in Omar Pacha's room. A commercial crisis has, it seems, arisen at Constantinople. The enormous fall in values has arrested all kinds of business. Meat and flour are to be had at half price.

PERSIA.

EXPEDITION TO HERAT.

It appears, from authentic intelligence (published in the "Gazette Officielle de Teheran," of Dec. 9) received by the Government (Persian) from Khorassan, that the Emir Dost Mahomed Khan, sirdar of Kaboul, having, at the instigation and with the aid of his neighbours, taken up arms against Kandahar, has become master of that province, and intends to advance upon Herat, for the conquest of that country. The Persian Government, in order to maintain tranquillity in the interior, and especially in the province of Khorassan, believes it to be its duty to protect the independence of Herat from all attempts on the part of the sovereigns or masters of Kaboul, Kandahar, and other countries. This act of the Persian Government does not, however, modify in any way its neutral position as to the Allied Powers, and it will continue to maintain this neutrality inviolate.

AMERICA.

THE last advices from New York, state that the President is out with another Message on the troubles in Kansas. It differs materially from the last message on that subject, for in it he does not hesitate to recognise the fact, that bands of ruffians from Missouri have been over to perpetrate scenes of violence and bloodshed, and interrupt the course of law and order in the territory of Kansas. As he finds his adherents, and the States, and the country, gradually falling away from his support in his course on the Kansas question, he will doubtless change his policy; for no American undertakes long to resist popular opinion.

The new Speaker had not, on Feb. 12th, fully completed the organisation of the House by the appointment of his committees. He was restrained partly by the jealousies of rival leaders of the Republicans, and partly by a difference of opinion as to policy.

The prospect of peace in Europe has thrown American capitalists into ecstasies. The effects produced on the Stock Exchange have been great. Everything has risen, particularly western railroad securities. Every confidence, it is said, is felt in the prospects of peace, although the Russian minister has the credit of industriously endeavouring to counteract this feeling.

The New York "Courier and Inquirer" says:—"Recent despatches from the British Cabinet are pacific and cordial towards the United States, and ought to dissipate all doubts that any difficulties should arise endangering the peace of the two nations, adding that the public of the States received coldly all belligerent demonstrations on the subject, and that no one seems to care what the President or war party in Congress say on the British question."

The New York "Herald" mentions Mr. Buchanan's name as candidate for the Presidency. It is expected, however, that before he returns to the States, he will take a continental tour.

The War.

OPERATIONS IN THE CRIMEA.

DESTRUCTION OF FORT ALEXANDER.

CAMP BEFORE SEBASTOPOL, Feb. 11.—The sole incident that has occurred here since the 9th is the destruction of Fort Alexander, which was blown up in three explosions at one o'clock this afternoon. The destruction was very complete, but the place does not look such a perfect level as the site of Fort Nicholas, and the sea face has been intentionally left standing. The explosions were the loudest we have heard this year, especially the first of the three. The day was dry, but not bright, and the absence of sun detracted from the striking nature of the spectacle, which was, however, sufficiently imposing, but not equal to that of Fort Nicholas's downfall. Notwithstanding the distance, the explosions sounded very loud up in camp, and persons who were well in rear of Cathcart's Hill assure me that they felt the ground tremble, and the huts they were in seemed to rock. The Russians, who had been firing a little from the Inkermann Batteries just before the fort blew up, were perfectly silent for some time after the explosion, apparently thinking it more dignified calmly to contemplate the destruction of their fortresses than to exhibit impotent wrath and unprofitably to expend their ammunition. At a later period of the day, they fired more than usual from the north side.

THE PEACE PARTY AND THE WAR PARTY.

It is curious to hear the diametrically opposite opinions that are emitted:—"Peace is certain; we shall all be home in a few weeks," is the assurance you receive from officers who did not enter the army to fight, and whom honour alone, and no taste for the work, has brought and kept so long out here. "The Russians are only trying to gain time," says the next man you meet, a thorough soldier, to whom hardship and danger are as nothing, and who covets promotion and the higher pay it will bring, for he has a wife and children at home, and little but his pay to maintain them with; "the report of peace is all humbug. See yonder, they are erecting platforms in Balaklava harbour, to ship the troops to Asia." Each man sees through his own glasses. The platform would serve equally well to ship troops to England. Among the mercantile com-

munity in the Crimea—the venders of wines and spirits, sauces, pickles, preserves, biscuits, tea, coffee, hams, crockery, butter, cheese, and a multitude of other groceries and Italian warehouseries—great alarm has been spread by the announcement of probable peace.

POSITION OF AFFAIRS AT KERCH.

The accounts from Kerch to Feb. 1, state that the *Weiser* gun-boat had been on a reconnaissance into the Sea of Azof. At Arabat mortar-batteries had been erected pointing seawards, but nothing was seen of the hosts of Russians reported to be in the vicinity, and the Tartars said there were only 12,000 in those parts.

THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES.

Feb. 12.—The opening of the New Theatre Royal, Fourth Division, took place last night, when "John Dobbs," and "Going to the Derby," were performed to an admiring audience of about 300 soldiers and non-commissioned officers.

DESTRUCTION OF VESSELS IN SEBASTOPOL HARBOUR.

A letter from Inkermann, of the 7th ult., says:—"Preparations are now being made for the total destruction of the Russian vessels sunk in the harbour of Sebastopol. This operation, some persons say, will be performed by throwing very heavy shells so that they shall drop perpendicularly on the vessels, and by bursting knock the vessels into pieces. These vessels, however, must be by this time half destroyed by the sea-worm, the *teredo navalis*, which is peculiar to the Black Sea."

WAR PREPARATIONS.

A despatch from the Crimea, of the 10th ult., states that the northern forts still keep up their fire upon Sebastopol.

The gun-boats which had been to Kinburn, have returned to Kaniesch for repairs. An order of the day, issued by General Codrington, from Balaklava, warns the English officers to provide themselves with equipments, in order to be ready for marching. The English army appears very eager for the continuance of the war.

TEMPORARY ADDITIONS TO THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

AMONG the methods which have obtained of late, of increasing the ministerial votes in the House of Lords, without making any permanent addition to the peerage itself, are the following. These will be found of interest at the present moment, when the Wensleydale patent is being called in question. The first and most common plan has been that of calling the eldest sons of peers to the Upper House in their father's baronies, during their father's lifetime. Frequent examples of this practice are to be found so far back as the reign of George III.

During the last century the earliest examples that we find are these: the Marquis of Carmarthen, eldest son of the Duke of Leeds, called to the Upper House in 1776, as Lord Osborne of Kiveton; and Lord Raynham, eldest son of the first Marquis of Townshend, as Lord Ferrers of Chartley, in the same year. Next follow Lords Hobart and Gower, eldest sons of the Earls of Buckinghamshire and Gower, called in those titles to the Upper House in 1798. In 1801, Viscount Lewisham, eldest son of the Earl of Dartmouth, was called as Lord Dartmouth, and the second Earl of Liverpool (afterwards Premier) was summoned, *vita patris*, as Lord Hawkesbury. In 1806 the Marquis of Huntly was summoned as Lord Gordon, in the lifetime of his father, the Duke of Gordon; and in the same year the late Duke of Marlborough, then Marquis of Blandford, was summoned to the Upper House in his father's barony of Spencer; and the late Earl of Chichester, in 1801, as Lord Pelham. In 1812, the late Duke of Northumberland, then Earl Percy, was called to the House of Lords in the barony of Percy; the late Duke of Hamilton, then Marquis of Douglas and Clydesdale, in 1806, as Lord Dutton; in 1804, Lord St. Asaph, eldest son of the Earl of Ashburnham, received a similar summons in the barony of Ashburnham. Somewhat later, in 1807, the late Duke of Buccleuch was called to the Upper House, *vita patris*, as Lord Tindal.

Under George IV. we find this practice occasionally followed; the present Marquis of Cholmondeley in 1821, and the Duke of Sutherland, in 1826, having each been summoned as Lord Newburgh and Lord Gower. In 1832 the present Marquis of Anglesey and the Duke of Bedford were respectively called as Lords Paget and Howland; in 1833 the eldest son of the late Earl of Stamford and Warrington, received a summons as Lord Grey of Groby, but died soon afterwards; in 1834 the late Earl of Besborough, then Lord Duncannon, was summoned as Baron Duncannon; and at the same time the late Earl of Derby, as Lord Stanley of Bickerstaffe. At the Coronation in 1838 two similar elevations took place; the present Duke of Leeds and the Marquis of Ailesbury being called by Lord Melbourne, in their fathers' respective baronies of Osborne and Bruce. In 1841 Lord Melbourne, previous to quitting office, raised to the Upper House in a similar way the present Duke of Norfolk and the Marquis of Douglas, as Lords Maltravers and Ennismore. Sir Robert Peel, shortly after his accession to office in 1841, found it expedient to advise her Majesty to summon the present Earls of Lonsdale and Derby to the Upper House as Lords Lowther and Stanley of Bickerstaffe. The present Earl of Gosford, who recently moved the Address in the House of Peers, was raised in like manner, *vita patris*, in 1847; and in 1853 Viscount Enfield, eldest son of Field Marshal the Earl of Strathford, was called in his father's barony of Strathford. His Lordship is the only individual who now enjoys the privilege of a seat in the Upper House by virtue of one of his father's inferior titles.

A second plan by which the "working staff" of the House of Lords has been recruited from time to time, without any permanent addition being made to the peerage, has been the elevation of heirs apparent or presumptive to new and inferior titles, which in course of time must merge in older and superior titles. Thus, in 1814, the next brother and heir presumptive of the Earl of Hopetoun was created Lord Niddry; in 1821, Mr. Wellesley-Pole, next brother and heir presumptive of the Earl of Mornington (Marquis of Wellesley), was created Lord Maryborough; in 1831, the present Earl of Cadogan was created Lord Oakley, and Lord George Cavendish, heir presumptive to the Duke of Devonshire, was raised to the earldom of Burlington; and on the same principle, Mr. Charles Rose Ellis, father of Lord Howard de Walden, was created Lord Seaford, in 1826. Somewhat similar was the elevation of the eldest son of the first Marquis of Townshend, *vita patris*, to the earldom of Leicester, in 1784 (though he had already been called to the Upper House, as we said above); and to come to more recent times, so late as the year 1848, the present Lord Stanley of Alderley, whose father was then living, was created Lord Edisbury.

A third expedient, frequently adopted by the Ministry of the day, has been the conferring of English baronies, without remainder, on Scotch and Irish peers who have had no male issue. Thus, in 1791, the Earl of Morton was created Lord Douglas of Lochleven; the Duke of Queensberry, in 1786, Lord Douglas of Amersbury; the Earl of Fife, in 1827, Baron Fife; and Lord Downe, in 1796, Baron Dawnay. On the same principle, an English barony was conferred on the late Lord Fitzgerald and Vesey, in 1835, and on the venerable Earl of Charlemont, in 1837. Thus, also, in 1826, the late Marquis of Thomond was created Lord Tadcaster, and the late Marquis of Queensberry, Lord Solway, in the peerage of the United Kingdom. Thus, too, the Scotch Earl of Breadalbane, and Lord Belhaven, in 1831, obtained respectively an English marquise and a barony, neither of which will devolve upon their heirs; and upon the same principle, the late Lord Talbot de Malahide, in 1839, was created Lord Furnival in the English peerage; and the late Earl of Kenmare, in 1841, received an English barony, both of which additional titles have since become extinct.

PROPOSED NEW CAMPS.—It is understood to be the intention of Government to establish camps in the spring on Barham Downs, near Canterbury; Pennenden Heath, near Maidstone; and Southsea Common, Hants. The troops to be encamped are stated at 8,000 on Barham Downs, 20,000 on Pennenden Heath, and 15,000 on Southsea Common; at all which places the men will be under tents, and will be drilled in field duties, ready for any emergency.

A LADY PHYSICIAN.—A lady, the daughter of the late Mr. Samuel Blackwell, of Bristol, has just completed her medical studies in Paris, and obtained a diploma to practise as a physician. She has a sister, who pursued her studies also in Paris, and who is acting in a similar capacity in New York, under the title of Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell.

PICCO, THE SARDINIAN MINSTREL.

Not many months ago, a sportsman wandering in one of the wild passes of the Italian Apennines, was struck by most strange sounds, as of a pipe or whistle. Curious to know what it could be, he directed his steps whither they came, and soon discovered that they were produced by a shepherd, that this shepherd was blind, and that he produced these most incredibly sweet sounds with a child's toy, a halfpenny whistle bought at the neighbouring village. The sportsman went home with the shepherd, whose name was Picco, and brought him to town with him the same evening. Picco was born at Poggio in the Sardinian states, and is now five and twenty. He has never been taught anything, and knows nothing in the world but to blow his little wooden pipe, but this he does in a most wondrous manner. The whistle from which he draws such marvellous sounds, and on which he performs every variation whatever, is really a rural whistle of the value of one halfpenny, made of common white wood dyed with yellow ochre, and having but three holes; in a word, a child's whistle.

Would any one believe that on it Picco produces double chromatic gamuts? that he plays pieces of great extent and extremely complicated?—with variations, and real concertos? that anything termed difficulty in music is as nothing to him, and that he produces all the effects of the flute without any other difference than that of the sound and diapason?

Nothing can be more extraordinary, and that which adds to the marvellous fact is, that this virtuoso was born blind, the son of an Apennine shepherd; that he is a composer as well as a performer, and that he has never had any other teachers than nature and his own genius. Everything he does proves that he has a musical instinct and a power of imagination rare even among those who have their sight, and are best gifted and best taught. We may ask how is it that this half-civilised being has succeeded in transforming his coarse whistle into an admirable instrument, the sounds of which seem the echo of an impassioned and musical soul, closed within such common outward appearances? Is it because a sublime instinct made this poor blind-born minstrel understand, by his sense of hearing alone, the harmony of creation, the beauty of beings that people a universe he is doomed never to see? If so, he has felt the vibrations of those sounds and harmonies in the midst of his darkness, and eagerly seized upon the first instrument handed to him to pour forth his overflowing feelings.

Picco, before commencing what may be called his theatrical career, performed in some coffee-houses at Milan. A prelude or two on his melodious whistle would immediately draw around him hundreds of people; and at last these throngs increased to that degree, that one day the Austrian police, who like not to see coffee-houses overcrowded, turned him out of Milan, with strict orders never more to be seen in it. Subsequently, however, he got leave to return there, but only in the character of a regular artist engaged to perform at the Grand Theatre of La Scala.

After quitting Milan, Picco went the tour of Italy, and performed at all the chief theatres. He next visited Paris, and played for a series of nights at the Italian Opera House; and on Saturday last he appeared in a private performance at Covent Garden Theatre, where all who heard him felt constrained to admit that his marvellous powers by no means fell short of the brilliant reputation that had preceded him. His first public concert will be given at the Hanover Square Rooms on Saturday week.

Our illustration of Picco is from an admirable drawing by Mr. Baugnie, whose life-like portraits are familiar to every lover of the fine arts.

THE LATE JOHN SADLEIR—HIS CAREER.

ORIGINALLY an attorney—an Irish attorney—in very moderate business, Mr. Sadleir suddenly changed the scene of his operations from the county of Tipperary to the more congenial atmosphere of the British metropolis. His first *début* in London was as a parliamentary agent, in which capacity his "tact" rather than his legal knowledge, and his force of character rather than his skill, caused him to obtain considerable employment, especially in connection with Irish railways. Previously, however, indeed so early as the year 1837, he had developed his talent as a financier—or, more strictly speaking, that predominant passion of his soul, the desire to have the handling of other people's money—by establishing the Tipperary Joint-Stock Bank. His connection with this undertaking brought him in contact with City capitalists "and men upon 'Change,'" both Jew and Gentile, to whom his off-hand business manner also not a little recommended him; and the result, in after years, was his elevation to the chairmanship of the board of direction of the London and County Joint-Stock Bank, an office which he appears to have filled until his death.

John Sadleir was ambitious in an extraordinary degree; for he sought not only the post of legislator, such as it is, but he also aimed to be the leader of a party in Parliament—an Irish party. On O'Connell's death, he grasped at O'Connell's functions; and, by dint of much cajolery and more cash, he was selected by the priests of Ireland as their instrument and organ, and elected accordingly for Carlow. At the same time were elected also a body of Irish Members in the popular interest, who swore (figuratively) upon the altar of their country to accept no personal advantage at the hands of any Ministry, and to seek only justice to Ireland—that desideratum being typified by "Tenant Right." For a time all went well with this party, that is, in the interval of the Sessions of Parliament; but, soon, all the baser passions of human nature surged up into light, and among the foremost to rush into the arms of the Ministry was the leader of the Irish Brigade—John Sadleir.

When the potato blight fell upon Ireland and ruined the potato aristocracy of that wretched country, almost to a man, John Sadleir saw at once that this time was come. Whether or not he had ever heard or read of *la bande noire* in France, that association of capitalists who bought up in a lump all the forfeited estates of priests and nobles in the time of the first French revolution, is not clear, but this is certain, that—after initiating certain changes in the Encumbered Estates Bill, as originally framed, the purport of which were, to empower the Commissioners to be appointed under the Bill, to act perfectly independent of the tedious forms of Chancery, and to give, after due investigation of claims, a perfect title, which could not be afterwards disputed—John Sadleir organised an association in England for the purpose of purchasing properties sold in the Encumbered Estates Court, at from seven to twelve years' purchase, with the view of reselling them at from eighteen to twenty years' purchase. The uncontrolled powers his position as promoter, trustee, and factotum of this "black band," conferred on him, were, however, his ruin; for, according to report, it appears the facilities which it afforded for fraud were so great, that he appropriated the funds of the association to his own private purposes, and gave the members fictitious title-deeds, to property which, in some cases, had no existence, for their money. It has also been stated, on the authority of a "friend," that he forged the conveyances of the Encumbered Estates Court to an extent at present unknown; and that the seals of the court were transferred from the conveyances of trivial purchases effected for that especial object.

Sadleir's election for Carlow in the first instance, and his rejection for the same place in the second, subsequently to accepting place as a Lord of the Treasury, cost him not only large sums of money, but likewise the last shred of political character which still stuck to him. His persecution of Dowling, the voter, who voted against him, after having had his "little bill" discounted at Sadleir's bank, is fresh in the recollection of every one, as is likewise his double defeat and disgrace in the law proceedings consequent thereon. The affair cost him his post as a Minister; and, though returned again to Parliament for Sligo, he ceased to swell the list of office bearers under the Government.

Sadleir held the office of chairman of the Swedish Railway, as too many know by this time to their cost, and in that capacity he was, as his temper prompted him to be, absolute master of the company. He also established an insurance company, and prosecuted to conviction a "petty larceny rogue" who had swindled it out of a couple of hundred pounds. He also established a pious newspaper in Dublin to subvert his own peculiar interests. He was deep in Italian, Spanish, and American railways. He was, in fact, in everything where money was to be gained. And yet he was personally an inexpensive man; that is to say, he was not known to be addicted to any of the ordinary vices of social life, nor has he ever had the reputation of being even generous in his general disbursements. He lived plainly, entertained sparingly, if he entertained at all, and appeared

to limit his extravagance in point of expenditure to a small stud of horses, three only in number, which he kept in the vicinity of Watford, for the purpose of hunting with the Gunnerbury hounds.

It is stated that the name of Sadleir is as unpopular, politically speaking, with the Irish as is that of Luttrell, "who sold the pass." He was looked upon as the betrayer of the Irish party, and he was supported only by the priests, whose interests are not national, but sectarian, in Ireland as well as in every other country. A proof of his misrepugnance is mentioned in connection with his last election for Sligo: it is said he started a high Orange candidate, at his own cost, to abuse Popery; himself the while standing on the ultramontane principle—"Ireland for the Irish priests." This was done to divide the Protestant votes, which would have been given to Somers, his principal opponent, as the lesser evil of the two.

John Sadleir was born in 1814 at Shrove Hill, in the county of Tipperary, and was educated at Clongmone College, Ireland. He gave up his practice as a solicitor in the year 1846, the year preceding his first election to Parliament. He was never married.

REPORTED FRAUDS AND FORGERIES.

A few days since, the "Morning Advertiser" published the following catalogue of Mr. Sadleir's reported delinquencies:—

"The full extent to which the practice of frauds has been carried by the late Member for Sligo, has not been ascertained; but there is every reason to believe that when all is known, it will not be much under £1,000,000. It has already been ascertained, beyond all question, that Mr. Sadleir had forged no fewer than 50,000 Royal Swedish Railway Company's shares and obligations, for £5 each—on which large sums of money were raised. This forgery alone is to the nominal sum of £250,000—only it is not yet known what amount he was able to raise on the shares and obligations.

"In addition to these forgeries, there are forgeries of several deeds and mortgages of estates in Ireland.

"But perhaps the boldest and most daring forgeries of all, are those which relate to deeds for the purchase of property in the Encumbered Estates Court of Ireland. These forged deeds purport to bear the signatures of the commissioners, the registrar, the chief clerk, the solicitors in the various causes, and the commissioner's seal. The extent to which this class of forgeries has been committed, may be inferred from the fact, that the stamp duty alone on the deeds amounted to several hundreds of pounds.

"A considerable number of forgeries on private individuals have already been discovered, and there is every reason to believe that others yet remain to be ascertained. Those which have been detected are supposed to amount to nearly £100,000.

"In addition to the classes of forgeries already enumerated, Mr. Sadleir has been guilty of the assignment of deeds, held in trust by him, to an enormous amount.

"The drafts of all the forged deeds and mortgages are in Mr. Sadleir's own handwriting. The forgeries of signatures are in every case remarkably successful. Those of the Encumbered Estates' Commissioners are said to be so perfect, that the most experienced eye could not detect the forged deeds from the genuine.

"The act of self-destruction was, it is believed, precipitated by the circumstance of one of the holders of deeds relative to the purchase of one of the encumbered estates, a sporting attorney in this country, who had advanced £10,000 to Mr. Sadleir, having gone over to Ireland with his solicitor, for the purpose of having the deed registered. Mr. Sadleir endeavoured to frustrate the intention of the party, but failed. Hence, it is presumed, the commission of suicide at the particular time it took place—longer concealment of his crimes being seen to be impossible.

"The crime of suicide must have been contemplated by Mr. Sadleir some time before he committed the act, for he had purchased 'Taylor on Poisoning,' a large thick volume, and had evidently read it through until he came to the chapter on the 'Essential oil of bitter almonds,' when he turned down the page, as if he had made up his mind that that was the means to which he would resort for putting an end to his existence. Every one knows that it was by a large draught of the essential oil of bitter almonds that he did commit self-destruction."

THE ADJOURNED INQUEST.

At the adjourned inquest held on the body of the late Member for Sligo on Monday last, the letters written by the deceased on the night preceding his death to Mrs. James Sadleir, his sister-in-law, Mr. R. Keating, M.P. for Watford, one of his most intimate friends, and Mr. Norris, a solicitor, were produced. Some of the deceased's relatives and personal friends were present. At the close of his evidence, Mr. Norris read the following letter, omitting the names mentioned in it at the request of the coroner.

"I can not live—I have ruined too many—I could not live and see their agony—I have committed diabolical crimes unknown to any human being. They will now appear, bringing my family and others to distress—causing to all shame and grief that they should have ever known me.

"I blame no one, but attribute all to my own infamous villainy. ————, and hundreds of others, ruined by my villainy. I could go through any torture as a punishment for my crimes. No torture could be too much for such crimes, but I can not live to see the tortures I inflict upon others.

"Telegraph to ———, and otherwise when you read this."

Mr. Keating was then called, and read the following letters written to him by the late Mr. Sadleir. The punctuation and the words in capitals are the deceased's own.

"Dear Robert—James sent me over his title deeds of Coohammick and Kilconnell—I have not used these deeds in any way. I gave J. Gurney a letter from James, intrusted to me by him—which J. Gurney had sent to him—This letter can not be acted on by J. Gurney without my Brother's express authority.

"JOHN SADLEIR.
"16 Feb'y 56.

"R. Keating, Esq., M.P.
"T. Uzili has a bank bill £2,000, on which NOTHING IS DUE. It should be at once cancelled—If on Monday the bank is to be saved £8,200 must be paid to East Kent Railway for 2 Orders £6,200 and £2,000—£2,500 must be paid in to Glynn's to meet order at sight issued to-day at Carriek. Gurney knows the orders falling due on Tuesday. All are ADVISED save the one for £6,200 my favour. This must be taken up on Monday not being advised—I can not live J. S."

"That letter contained the following telegraphic message:—
"Forwarded from Dublin station, and received at the Strand station, February 16, 1856.

"From James Sadleir, 30, Merrion Square (South), Dublin, to John Sadleir, Esq., M.P., Reform Club, Pall Mall, London.—All right at all the branches—only a few small things refused there. If from twenty to thirty thousand over here on Monday morning all is safe."

"11, Gloster Terrace, 16th February, 1856.

"Dear Robert—To what infamy have I come, step by step—heaping crime upon crime—and now I find myself the author of numberless crimes of a diabolical character, and the cause of ruin and misery and disgrace to thousands—ay, to tens of thousands. Oh how I feel for those on whom all this ruin must fall—I could bear all punishments but I could never bear to witness the sufferings of those on whom I have brought such ruin—it must be better that I should not live. No one has been privy to my crimes—they sprang from my own cursed brain alone—I have swindled and deceived without the knowledge of any one—Stevens and Norris are both innocent and have no knowledge of the fabrication of Deeds and forgeries by me, and by which I have sought to go on in the horrid hope of retrieving. It was a sad day for all when I came to London. I can give but little aid to unravel accounts and transactions. There are serious questions as to my interest in the Grand Junction and other undertakings. Much will be lost to the creditors if these cases are not fairly treated. The Grand Junction, the East Kent and the Swiss Railways the Rome line the Coal Co are all liable to be entirely lost now—so far as my assets are concerned. I authorise you to take possession of all my letters papers property &c &c in this house and at Wilkinson's and 15 Cannon Street. Return my brother's letters to me, and all other papers. The prayers of one so wicked could not avail or I would seek to pray for those I leave after me and who will have to suffer such agony and all owing to my criminal acts. Oh that I had never quitted Ireland—Oh that I had resisted the first attempts to launch me into speculations.

"If I had had less talents of a worthless kind and more firmness I might have remained as I once was honest and truthful—and I would have lived to see my dear father and mother in their old age. I weep and weep now, but what can that avail.

"Robert Keating, Esq., M.P., Shamroque Lodge, Clapham."

Mr. Keating then said that he had applied to Mrs. James Sadleir for the letter written by her brother-in-law to her on the night preceding his death. The following is the reply he had received:—

"Dublin, Feb. 23, 1856.
"Dear Mr. Keating—I only received your letter of Wednesday, the 20th inst., here this morning. I now enclose you the letter I received from poor, unfortunate John Sadleir. It may throw some light on the state of his mind at the time he wrote it. As you will perceive, he neither addresses me in his usual manner nor even adds his signature. Please be careful of the enclosed letter, and return it to me.—Believe me, yours sincerely,
"EMMA SADLEIR.

"Robert Keating, Esq., M.P., 21, Lombard Street, London."

The enclosure which witness said was in the handwriting of the deceased, was as follows:—

"James is not to blame—I alone have caused all this dreadful ruin. James was to me too good a brother, but he is not to blame for being deceived and led astray by my diabolical acts. Be to him at this moment all the support you can. Oh, what would I not suffer with gladness to save those whom I have ruined. My end will prove at least that I was not callous to their agony."

At a subsequent period of the inquiry, Mr. Norris stated that Mr. Gurney had told him that he gave Mr. Sadleir £13,000 in bank-notes before he left the city on the Saturday afternoon before his death. (No trace of this sum has since been discovered).

Mr. Keating said the deceased had told him there was a £1,000 note among his money, but that had not been found.

THE BANKER MEYER, accused of corrupting the officials of the electric telegraph, has had his condemnation reversed by the Court of Appeal.

COLONEL MURSTER is to return to St. Petersburg, as the military attaché to the Prussian Embassy there.

MR. BRIGHT, M.P., has this week reappeared in the House of Commons, looking little, if anything, the worse for his baneful attack, and that regimen which was doubtless the consequence.

THE KING OF THE BELGIANS intends to leave Brussels the week after next, to visit her Majesty and Prince Albert.

THE GRAND BALL given last week by the Americans in Paris, at the Hotel du Louvre, in commemoration of the birthday of Washington, was attended by Lord Clarendon, and the other Plenipotentiaries.

THE NOBILITY AND GENTRY of the county of Durham, out of regard to the memory of the late gallant Marquis of Londonderry, purpose erecting a handsome monument.

KARS: THE STORY OF ITS DEFENCE AND FALL.

TOLD BY AN ACTOR AND EYE-WITNESS.

THE period is rapidly drawing nigh, when the long-anticipated debate in the House of Commons on the disaster of Kars will inevitably take place. Already certain papers referring to this unfortunate affair are in the hands of the printer to the House, and we have the assurance of the Premier himself that the remainder will be ready in the course of a few days. From these we hope to glean the true story of this defeat, which might have been a victory, had not some unseen influence been at work to thwart the well-laid plans, and tire out the unceasing energy, of the brave General Williams and his noble associates, Knely and Colman, the Hungarians, and Lake, Thompson, and Teesdale.

On the following pages will be found two spirited engravings, one representing a well-known incident in this protracted siege; the other, the final catastrophe—the honourable capitulation of the garrison. Both of these are from the facile and able pencil of Gustave Doré, whose works must by this time be familiar to our readers. The story of the siege, making due allowance for the reservations of an army surgeon having the fear of the War-office before his eyes, has been recently admirably told by Dr. Sandwith, during a visit to his native place, Hull; and although this narrative is now getting somewhat stale, it will serve as an accompaniment to our illustrations far better than any mere descriptions of them by one who never had the scenes before his own eyes, for it carries on the face of it the marks of undoubted authenticity. Dr. Sandwith said:—

I cannot forget my gallant old chief, who, though he lost his city never lost a battle—who, although in one sense unfortunate, has crowned his honoured head with unfading laurels; and I think, therefore, you will agree with me when I say that at the top of that list of glorious heroes which this war has called forth, the name of General Williams stands pre-eminent. Only those, perhaps, who have been with him during the whole of that campaign, disastrous as it may have been in one respect, yet glorious and advantageous in this—that we may say it has saved Asia Minor—can rightly understand the magnitude of the difficulties he had to encounter. When we first went to Kars, we saw the army at Erzeroum a mere rabble. I would not cast a slight upon a brave and long-suffering ally, but we cannot disguise the fact that the army to which we went had been beaten five times, and that the last battle had been the most disastrous of all. When General Williams joined that army, he did so simply as her Majesty's Commissioner, and not with any authority as general; he had not the command of a single regiment in the field; his duty was simply to report the course of events to his Government. But General Williams was equal to the circumstances in which he found himself placed. He found the army dissolved, and the enemy at the very gates of the province, and peculation among the officials. He at once told the governor and the officers that they were enriching themselves at the expense of the troops, and he told them so in language as plain as that I now use to you. They crouched to him, and from that time he was the actual Commander-in-chief. During the winter of 1854 and during 1855 his work was incessant; he prepared the army for a new campaign, but unfortunately, and indeed unhappily, he was not backed up at Constantinople. The Pashas were too busy in filling their coffers to meet General Williams's requisitions, but, nevertheless, this brought out the qualities of the hero of Kars more than ever, and he made the best of the resources he had. General Mouravieff, at the head of a well-appointed army of 40,000 men, was just then preparing to besiege Kars. We were at that time at Erzeroum. Colonel Lake had gone on a month before to Kars, and had greatly improved the insignificant fortifications which he found; and, by Captain Thompson and Major Teesdale aiding him, they made that city what it has proved to be—impregnable to all but famine. Four forced marches, over a distance of about 100 miles, brought us to the city. We found the troops no longer what they had been—poor, neglected, destitute, ragged men—truly they were ragged men—but their eyes were filled with courage and their hearts full of 'Veilams Pacha,' whom they recognised as their commander. They told us at every step that they would stand to the last, and I need not tell you how well and nobly they redeemed their word. For some few days, we were menaced, but saw nothing of the Russians. On one occasion, Colonel Lake and myself did venture to go and take a peep at them. It was early one morning, and that morning introduced me to my first experience of actual warfare, although I had gone through a campaign on the Danube. We set out before daylight. We rode for five or six miles to our outposts, which consisted of about three hundred miserable cavalry. While taking a peep at the formidable Russians, my eyes were attracted to a large body, looming through the gloom, which appeared to be bearing down upon us. We watched them carefully, but they appeared to disperse. Nevertheless, Col. Lake deemed it advisable to commence a quiet retreat; and accordingly the commander gave the word 'Retreat,' 'Canter.' We had not proceeded far before three whole regiments of Russian dragoons swept down upon us. There was the crash of the carbines, and the clash of swords, and they cut our little force to pieces, though, thank God, I am here to tell the story, but very few escaped to tell the tale. (Hear, hear, and sensation.) A few days after this day's incident the alarm gun from the top of a battery was fired, and the word passed from mouth to mouth 'The foe, the foe—they come, they come!' We sallied out, not from our entrenchments, but from the open camp that surrounded our breastworks, and then we saw a compact body of men—their bayonets gleaming in the morning sun, their ranks protected by cavalry and artillery—there, I say, we saw them advancing towards our breastworks. Every soldier there said, 'Thank God they have come at last. We are ready!' I must tell you that at this time our total force was about 17,000, including a great number of irregulars; the enemy's force was 40,000. As this huge body came nearer, we pushed out our irregular cavalry, who were met by the Cossack irregular cavalry of the Russians. And never did my eyes rest on a more glorious and magnificent scene. The grassy plain between the two armies was enlivened with myriads of flowers sparkling in the morning sun, and there the two forces, in their Asiatic dress and Asiatic armour met hand to hand, and chief to chief, like at some ancient tournament. But soon this play, as it were, of warfare ceased. Their masses came on, and made a rush upon the extremity of our works, where they were met with a hailstorm of grape. Our cavalry sallied out, and met the advancing columns, and on all sides raged the tide of war. The battle lasted but a short time—three hours at the utmost—and then the Russians retreated. (Great cheering.) Unluckily, we had no effective cavalry, or that might have been the first and last affair at Kars. (Renewed cheers.) We had work enough to do, I can assure you. Day after day, week after week, passed without any succours showing the selves, and without any assistance being forthcoming. General Williams at that time was constantly with the Turkish marshal in command, and he said, 'Now we are fairly and completely enclosed on all sides. You are here as commander-in-chief, not only of the army but of the town and fortress, and I am here to give you advice.' He still remained without any nominal command, but he was actually, bonâ fide, and absolutely in command. We had at that time a large portion of the population disaffected towards us, namely, the Christians. We had, besides, traitors in the camp; and all these things occupied the attention of the Gallant General Williams. However, measures were instantly taken for the suppression of these. Week by week rolled on, varied only by an occasional skirmish, an occasional feat, or an occasional slight attack. Still there were craven spirits who counselled surrender, and, completely surrounded as we were, many of our poor, starved, unpaid soldiers, gave way and deserted. General Williams at once adopted strong measures. Every soldier caught attempting to desert was tried by drumhead court-martial, and shot on the spot. Every man found communicating with the enemy was at once hung. (Sensation.) These things may appear horrible to you in England, unaccustomed as you are to having the horrors of war brought home to you; and I must say that



PICCO, THE SARDINIAN MINSTREL.

these measures were not more painful to any individual than to General Williams. Nevertheless they were necessary; and it was these measures which caused us to hold out, and, in fact, saved Asia Minor. But, gentlemen, a brighter day was dawning for us; another glorious triumph was to be ours. On the day when our troops were giving way under the hope deferred which maketh the heart sick,—on the 29th of September, shortly after the sun had risen, the roar of artillery was heard on the western extremity of our works, intermingled with the rattle of musketry. We knew from the constant roll of musketry and the incessant roar of the cannon, that the hour of assault had arrived. And we thanked God in our hearts, and each man buckled on his sword and rushed into the midst of the fray. Seven mortal hours those poor troops fought against the enemy, whilst he made assault after assault. Some of our batteries were carried, but General Williams with eagle eye saw where raged the heaviest fight, and reinforcements were sent out where they were required, and drove out at the point of the bayonet the Russians who had got into their batteries. There they fought hand to hand with clubbed rifles, with daggers, even with stones. Again, again, and again their close columns came up to be mowed down by our artillery with grape shot, and by the deadly and incessant fire of our riflemen.



THE LATE JOHN SADLEIR.

After seven hours' mortal conflict we saw at last the Russians retreating down the hill. They had advanced double quick time in their attack, but I cannot express to you the speed with which they retired. We then saw every shopkeeper, tailor, shoemaker, and saddler in the place issue out, armed with their muskets and guns, and firing into the retreating soldiery. The very women brought us ammunition in their aprons, and assisted us in every way, crying out, "We pray for you," "We will help you," "May God sharpen your swords." Some of these devoted and gallant women, I regret to say, fell; but gloriously, like true heroines as they were. Unhappily at this time every grain of barley had been consumed, and we had not any cavalry force in the place, or this would have been the termination of our troubles. The Russians were able to retire to their camp, where they had 10,000 cavalry yet untouched and uninjured; so that although their infantry was torn and shattered in pieces, by means



SORTIE BY THE TURKS DURING THE SIEGE OF KARS.—(DRAWN BY GUSTAVE DORE.)

of their cavalry they were still enabled to surround us. I cannot describe to you the horrors that ensued in the month or two following this attack. There you saw women and children expiring by the wayside of famine; as you passed along, they turned reproachful glances at the soldiery, almost as starving as they, exclaiming, "Why do you not go out to fight?" "Why keep us here to perish with hunger?" "Take the children; we can no longer support them." Such a time as that was the time for trying the true soldier; and I am proud to say the soldiery there bore the test nobly. The Turkish soldiers stood firmly and well under sufferings and trials which could scarcely be exceeded. Many of them dropped down dead at their posts from sheer hunger and exhaustion; and in the forts, where scanty provisions for three days were laid up, there was not a single instance of a biscuit even being stolen. The hospitals were crowded with the sick and dying, and death stared us in the face daily on every hand; but those who died, died like heroes, and to the last our works were maintained by that gallant band of starving soldiers. At this time, a Turkish pacha, whose name I cannot mention without indignation, was constantly writing to us from

Erzeroum, whence we expected him to come with a relieving force:—"Hold out, I am coming;" "Hold out two days longer;" "Hold out three days longer;" "Hold out, I am coming." We did hold out day after day, and week after week, but relief never came. The time came at last, the dreadful hour of capitulation. The hearts of everyone swelled well nigh to bursting with grief and indignation. Gen. Williams one snowy morning—for the weather by that time had become nipping cold—rode out to the Russian camp with a flag of truce. He was met and conducted with all due politeness and respect to General Mouravieff. He said, "I have come to arrange the terms of a capitulation. There are certain articles upon which I must insist; and if you refuse them, you must remember the garrison has not yet surrendered—if you refuse them, every gun in Kars shall be burst, every trophy destroyed. I have no wish to rob you of trophies which you have well earned; but if the terms I ask are refused, you will have nothing but a famished crowd of disarmed soldiers." That chivalrous and noble-minded man—for it would ill-become me not to render justice to the chivalry of an enemy—replied, "General Williams, you have won for yourself a name in history;

posterity shall stand amazed at the courage, at the endurance, and at the lofty qualities exhibited by you in this siege. Yourself and your troops are covered with glory. I have no wish to outrage humanity by anything unbecoming me as a general, and the terms you ask I accede to." I am unable to describe to you the melancholy day of our capitulation; our poor troops, feeble and tottering from starvation and disease, marched out to meet, not a conquering, but a conquered and defeated foe. They yielded only to famine. But two days' provisions were left them at the time of their capitulation, and those provisions consisted only of a handful of biscuit on each man's back. Never shall I forget the scene of the capitulation. Women and children wept from the house tops—old warriors wept aloud, exclaiming, "How is it God has forsaken us!" The Turkish soldiers reproached their Government for thus deserting them; and it must be admitted that their Government was unworthy of such splendid troops. Time will show who was in fault, but I think you will agree with me that, upon whomsoever the blame may rest, the garrison of Kars has covered itself with glory."



THE GARRISON OF KARS MARCHING OUT FROM THE CITY AFTER THE SURRENDER.—(DRAWN BY GUSTAVE DORE, FROM A SKETCH BY MR. WATERSON.)

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

It can scarcely be denied that the civilisation upon which we so much pride ourselves, is at present in a most lamentable state. Sunday schools, adult instruction, house-to-house visiting, City missionaries, Mechanics' Institutions, and lectures delivered by Peers and Members of Parliament, all appear of no avail. For several months past we have scarcely been able to take up the newspaper without finding the record of some atrocity; and during the last fortnight, the horrors seemed to have reached their culminating point. The investigations pursued in the Rugeley poisoning cases have revealed many other similar instances of crime, and, to a certain extent, popular suspicion is awakened; but, did not a perusal of the metropolitan newspapers, published daily, keep us *en courait* to all that transpires, no imagination could conceive the number and the boldness of the ill-deeds daily perpetrated within those boundaries expressed by the hack-nick phrase, "the Bills of Mortality." Foremost in the list, stands the suicide of Mr. John Sadler, committed after "thousands, ay, tens of thousands,"—to use the wretched man's own phrase—"had been brought to beggary by his crimes." Led on from speculation to speculation, covering his losses by further investments, and his further losses by forgeries and frauds, the miserable creature finds life no longer endurable, and, maddened by the thought of his villainy, and the wrong he had done to others, "unhouselled, disappointed, unanelled, with all his imperfections on his head," rushes into the presence of his Maker. His was no temporary insanity; remorse had for some time been at work, and the certainty of discovery determined the execution of the suicide. If he were insane, he must have been so for months; but his actions and letters, as narrated and read at the inquest, go far to prove that he played a desperate game with much skill and courage, but feared at last to "stand the hazard of the die." The same newspaper, containing the account of the inquest on Mr. Sadler, informs us of the ultimate death of Mr. Taham, a young stockbroker, of Liverpool, who over-specified, and partially cut his throat, hanging for a time between life and death, but eventually sinking under weakness and loss of blood. In the next column we find a paragraph stating that on Sunday morning a young man was robbed and murdered on Tower Hill (which, however, I am happy to say, turns out to be incorrect), and footpad and garrotte robberies are matters of daily occurrence in the suburbs. What is to be done? Is it the fault of the police, the law, or the public? Of all three, perhaps, but certainly principally of the two latter. I have seen a good deal of the police (here's a fine opportunity for a sneer, reader, if you are that way inclined) and seen them under the most trying circumstances, and I firmly believe that—though, of course, there are some black sheep among them—a finer, better body of men is not to be found. But the law is defective, full of loopholes, in many cases much too lenient, and as for the public, they do indeed sow the evil they afterwards reap. Corrigan, who murdered his wife, was found guilty, and actually had taken leave of his friends, is relieved on the day before that fixed for his execution, at the solicitation of a certain number of mistaken people who induce Mr. Milner Gibson to present a petition praying for his respite to the Home Secretary. The ground of their prayer is that he was under the effect of *delirium tremens*; so that every man who is a drunkard as well as a murderer, may henceforth look for mercy. The jury, after an unanimous verdict of "guilty," support the petition; Mr. Justice Wightman, after a strongly-worded and unflinching sentence, eats his own words; the maniacal old pot-house journal, in several ungrammatical and pointless articles, drivels of the iniquity of hanging a man for a crime committed while under the influence of articles supplied by respectable licensed victuallars, and—Corrigan is relieved. And so the public, which is murdered, will suffer by its own folly and lenity.

My observations on the proposed reformation (or rather, let me say, proposed alteration) of the Civil Service Superannuation Act, have had the effect of inducing several correspondents holding responsible situations under Government to communicate to me many of the strongest features of their claims, and several instances of undeniable injustice. This *femite-tor* is scarcely the place for the discussion of so grave a topic, but I cannot resist the temptation of communicating to your readers one delicious piece of red-tape absurdity and injustice with which I have been made acquainted. Would you believe that, if, at the time of the death of a civil servant, his department owes him, say two months' salary, the *superannuation contribution* is actually deducted from the sum paid to his widow, although the man, being actually deceased at the time, can of course have no chance of deriving any benefit from it!

By the way, in reference to my article of last week, "Art under the Hammer," a friend whose name is well known to the public, writes to me that the picture of "Sir Thomas More and his Daughter" (in Mr. Birch's collection) is the duplicate of one in the Vernon Gallery; and he also says, "It is to this young woman (Margaret Roper) that Pennyson refers in his 'Dream of Fair Women'—"

"Morn broadened o'er the borders of the dark,
Ere I saw her, who clasped in her last trance
Her murdered father's head."

The gentlemen to whom the task of selecting the best design for an omnibus had been delegated by the London General Omnibus Company (Messrs. Godwin, J. Wright, and Charles Crawley), have made a report which certainly damns with faint praise the specimens submitted to their notice. Out of twenty-five designs sent in, it appears that no single one was calculated in its existing shape to afford the increased amount of comfort and accommodation required by the company. Being compelled, however, to select one of the designs submitted, that of Mr. R. F. Miller of Hammersmith, a well-known omnibus builder, was decided upon, and to him the £100 premium was awarded. Surely, it is an extraordinary thing that we, acknowledged to be the best coach builders in the world, cannot contrive an efficient omnibus. *Appropos* of this subject, I hear that the Associated Omnibus Proprietors (for the sneers against whom, the principal ground is that they are associated as a *Société en Commandite*) are not to have it all their own way. An opposition omnibus company is in the course of formation, "with the view of rescuing the metropolis from the threatened monopoly," and we are promised "English omnibuses," by "English coach builders," and a company registered under the "English Limited Liability Act!" What extraordinary people we are! You have but to talk of "monopoly," and "French enterprise," and sturdy, obstinate, stick-in-the-mud, beef-and-porter-fed John Bull rises, and roars about what he calls his "rights!"

Let me recommend all your readers who take (or took) any interest in the war, to go and see Mr. Burford's new panorama of Sebastopol after the attack. It is a miracle of painting. The spectator is supposed to be standing on a Russian battery, looking down upon the lines of the Allies. The French have just gained the Malakoff; the English are in the act of attacking the Redan. The whole scene is full of life and action, and the painting of the atmosphere and sea is most artistic. I scarcely think I am saying too much by describing it, as the most perfect panorama I have ever beheld.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

THE BRITANNIA.—PROFESSOR ANDERSON'S BENEFIT.

Few of your readers have ever, I suppose, visited the Britannia Theatre! In the first place it is difficult of access, being situated in the wilds of Hoxton; and, secondly, it is not stamped as visitable by aristocratical recommendation in the "Times"; and yet, let me assure you, there are very few minor theatres where plays are better produced or more conscientiously acted and listened to. I was there the other night and saw a very good melo-drama, called "The Return of the Wanderer," sensible, devoid of exaggerated sentiments and the usual melo-dramatic cant; and, as far as the scenery went, very creditably put upon the stage.

The dresses of such of the characters as were supposed to represent "swells," might perhaps have been objected to by the frequenters of Hyde Park, but as few of these were among the audience, no unpleasant remarks were made. I also saw one of the best pantomimes of the year. The opening, indeed, was more of a burlesque, and the part of Don Giovanni was capably played by Mrs. Lane, the wife of the proprietor of the house. The comic business was also very good, and then the pantoloon (I can't recollect his name, and have lost my bill) is in my opinion the best I ever saw. The audience (most of whom, mind, had paid only 3d. for admission) were both orderly and respectable, listening with perfect quietude

and attention; nor did I, during the whole evening, hear one objectionable expression made use of. I'm sorry I cannot say as much for the frequenters of far more fashionable theatres.

Professor Anderson, the wonderful, having come to the end of his lease of Covent Garden, is about to take a "Carnival Benefit," as he calls it, which is to commence at 1 P.M. on the afternoon of Monday the 3rd of March, and to continue till about 1 A.M. on Tuesday the 4th. All this is to consist of theatrical entertainment; but to! on Tuesday, at 10 P.M. it re-commences with a *bal masqué*, and continues until an indefinite hour on Wednesday. Here is an extract from his delicious advertisement:—

"For a single payment the visitor may enter the theatre after his morning walk, witness the last representation of the Great Pantomime of 1856, after that see a Farce, then enjoy a cold collation in the theatre, or quietly adjourn to his dinner, return to his seat and listen to the Opera, take tea in his box with his friends between that and the Barletta; enjoy a twenty minutes nap before the representation of the Drama of the evening, go home by the light of the moon, and be again in the theatre on the following evening, to join in the frolic pleasures of the Bal Masqué, and so bring to an end the Wizard's Carnival; commenced with being a spectator to the fun of the Pantomime, and terminating in being a participator in the hilarity of the dancers on the same stage whereon the Pantomime was enacted during the previous day."

THE MURDER OF THE COUNTESS DE CAUMONT-LAFORECE.

As stated in a portion of our impression of last week, the Countess de Caumont-Laforce, was on the Wednesday murdered by her man-servant.

The following are the particulars of this dreadful crime:—The Countess it appears had formerly, as became her rank, several persons in her service at the same time, but she quarrelled with them all and discharged them one after the other. About a fortnight or three weeks ago she had no servant, and a man named Baumann, thirty-two years of age, a native of Wurtemberg, hearing of the place, offered his services. The Countess stated what the duties and wages were, and as the man accepted them, she took him at once into the house. The man appears to have been tolerably attentive to his duties, but this did not preserve him from the reproaches of the Countess. These reproaches he at first bore in silence; but being of an irascible character, he after a while became impatient, and said that they were unjust. The Countess, however, persisted in them; and he, finding that there was no chance of pleasing her, took the resolution of paying no attention to what she said. The Countess, on this, became more exacting than ever; and minutely inspected the manner in which the man did his work, and scolded him for what appeared to her the slightest negligence. Things continued to go on in this way up to Wednesday. The man, in the early part of the morning, went into the neighbourhood to purchase, as usual, two little loaves for his mistress's breakfast, and on his return served up breakfast. He then went to clean out the alley opposite the stables. Whilst he was so engaged, the Countess went to him, and began scolding him for the manner in which he did his work. The man, in spite of his resolution not to answer her, became greatly exasperated, and replied insolently. A violent altercation ensued, and bursting into a paroxysm of rage, he rushed on the Countess, struck her a furious blow with his clenched fist on the head, which knocked her senseless to the ground, and then taking her up when in that state, flung her on to a heap of manure. After a while, seeing that she remained without motion, he carried the body into a stable, placed it under a heap of litter, and, after pressing the straw on it, threw a number of pieces of wood over all. Afterwards he went into the house, and, entering the apartment, took two pieces of gold of 20s. each, a piece of 5s., and two cakes of chocolate which happened to be on a table, but he did not touch a quantity of plate, or some other articles of value, which were lying about. The Countess, on being struck, uttered a loud cry of distress, which was distinctly heard by several of the occupiers of the adjacent house.

An American gentleman happening to be standing at his window when the Countess had gone to speak to her servant, supposed that the cry had come from her, and he determined on going down to ask if she had not been taken suddenly ill. Just as he was about to knock at the *porte cochere*, Baumann opened it, and the American asked where he was going. "I am going into the neighbourhood on an errand for my mistress," answered the man. "But," said the gentleman, "where is your mistress, and why did she cry out just now?" "She is in the stable," replied Baumann with the greatest calmness, "and she cried out because I was murdering her!" As the man's blouse was stained with blood, it struck the gentleman that this declaration, extraordinary as it was, might be true, and calling a sergeant-de-ville, who was near at hand, gave him into custody. The gentleman, accompanied by some other persons who came up, then entered the stable, and the dead body of the Countess was found beneath the straw and wood. Several medical men were instantly called in, but they could do nothing. The deceased had, in addition to numerous bruises, a large wound in the head, from which blood had flowed copiously. The murderer, being taken before the Commissary of Police, made the following statement:—

"My mistress was always scolding me for the way in which I did my work, and yet I did it well. This morning she uttered reproaches which I did not deserve, and which exasperated me, because she did the same thing every day. Passion having seized me, I rushed on her without knowing what I did—not to murder her, for I did not think of that, but to give her a good shaking (*une bonne danse*), in order that she should leave me quiet in future. It appears unfortunately that I struck more violently than I meant to do, although I only made use of my fist; and the consequence was that, after striking her, she fell without motion. It was then that I carried her into the stable, and strewed on her the straw and the wood."

On being searched, the 45s. which he had taken were found, and he was asked if he had not committed the murder to facilitate a robbery? "I only took the money," he answered, "to purchase a pair of trousers; and, besides, that amount was due to me. If I had intended to commit a robbery, I might have taken things of infinitely greater value." The man was afterwards confronted with the corpse of his victim, but he manifested not the slightest emotion.

ROME AND ST. PETERSBURG.—A Swiss paper denies that the negotiations between Rome and St. Petersburg are concluded, but it gives some insight into what is going on between the two courts. 1. Alexander II. has dismissed M. Skrizitzky, a high Russian employé, who never lost an opportunity of oppressing the Catholic subjects of the Czar. 2. The Emperor has ordered that a Catholic Archbishop and Metropolitan shall be elected for Mohileff. 3. The Pope has been consulted about fitting appointments for ten vacant sees. 4. General Nazimoff, a man who is well liked by the Catholics, has been appointed Governor of Wilna. 5. M. de Kisseleff, who is anything but a bigoted follower of the Greek Church, is to carry on the negotiations with the Papal Chair. 6. A Committee, partly formed of Catholics, is to examine strictly into the state of the Roman Church in Russia. "and to send in such preparatory matter as may be of service in forming a concordat which shall be in accordance with the spirit of the age."

FUNERAL OF PRINCE PASKIEWITCH.—The mortal remains of Marshal Paskiewitch were conveyed, on Friday, the 8th ult., with truly regal pomp, from the Chapel Ardent of the Royal castle to the Cathedral church. The next day they were carried in nearly the same order, to the banks of the Vistula, and thence to Demblin, one of the estates of the illustrious deceased, twenty-six leagues distant from Warsaw. It was there the Marshal had asked to be interred. His family and a great number of high dignitaries accompanied the body, and assisted at the last funeral ceremony, which was celebrated by the Greek Archbishop.

THE BALTIC COMMANDS.—Rear-Admiral Sir Richard Saunders Dundas re-toiled his flag as commander-in-chief of the Baltic fleet, on board the Duke of Wellington, at Portsmouth, on Wednesday week. Rear-Admiral Baynes remains second in command, in the Retribution, now at Sheerness. The third command has been given to Captain H. J. Codrington, who is to hoist a broad pendant as commodore on board the Majestic. The four divisions of the gun-boat flotilla will be commanded by Captain Henry Keppel, Captain Yelverton, Captain W. Peel, and Captain A. C. Key. An advance squadron, consisting of screw and paddle frigates and a screw sloop, has left the Downs to proceed to the Baltic.

AMOUNT OF BULLION PURCHASED AND SOLD BY THE BANK OF ENGLAND IN 1855.—The bar gold purchased amounted to £8,241,115, and foreign coin to £69,243, making a total of £8,310,358. The sales were—bar gold £3,377,763, and foreign coin, £14,218, making together £3,391,981. The gold coin received from the Mint during the year amounted to £9,008,833.

THE PUBLIC DEBT.—A return to Parliament of all additions which have been made to the annual charge of the public debt, by the interest on loans, &c., shows that in 1847 the addition was £270,837 19s. 8d.; in 1848, £269,339 11s. 6d.; in 1853, £49,870; and in 1855, £601,670.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. VIII.
THE SUNDAY QUESTION.

"WHY, what on earth is all this row about?" said we to the policeman as we entered into the lobby on Thursday night, the 21st ult. "Is Sir George Grey's Police Bill on to-night, and are these the mayors and aldermen who are so dreadfully frightened at centralisation? or is it Mr. R. Lowe's Local Dues on Shipping measure? or what is it that causes this hubbub and crowd?" "It's the Sunday question, Sir," said our friend in black, touching his hat, meaning Sir Joshua Walsley's motion to open the British Museum and National Gallery on the Sunday. The people of England are a strange people, thought we. During the last twelve months we have had questions of peace and war, the destruction of an army by neglect and mismanagement, the expenditure of a hundred millions of money discussed here, and yet on no occasion has there been a quarter of the people brought together, nor a tithe of the excitement caused, as there is by this simple question. The outer lobby was crowded, and the anxiety to get in was so great, that it was only the most watchful care of the doorkeepers and the police that prevented the strangers from descending the sacred precincts. Every seat in the strangers' gallery was spoken for three or four deep, and the Speaker's list had been full for a week. In the cloak-room the officials were "snowed up" by petitions, and could hardly move for the hundreds that loaded their tables and the floor. Long before the House formally opened, a continuous stream of members arrived, loaded with petitions set in, and it really seemed as if the stream would never cease. Some of the members, Mr. Horsfall for instance, had many more entrusted to them than they could carry at once, and were obliged to come out several times before they got all of them into the House. Nor was getting into the House an easy task for the members, for they had to push their way through a crowd of strangers, who anxiously pounced upon them for orders. How many petitions in exact numbers were thus carried into the House we have not heard, but we know that sixteen bags full came out, each bag holding about four bushels.

WHAT IS DONE WITH THE PETITIONS.

Some people imagine that all these petitions, immediately after presentation, are destroyed; but this is not so. The voice of the people is not thus neglected by the people's House. All petitions are sent to the Journal Office, and there examined. Such as are not in due form are rejected. The remainder are carefully registered, the signatures thereof counted, and the result handed over to the "Petition Committee," and by them reported upon at the end of the Session. What eventually becomes of them, we are not prepared exactly to say. Some say that they are assigned to the vaults underneath, where they lie and rot; but we rather think that they are after a time returned to the Stationery Office, sold as waste paper, and the produce carried to the credit of the revenue.

The fight on Thursday night was not a party fight. There was no "whip" either of the Government or the Opposition, but every man did what seemed right in his own eyes, or rather as he was bidden by his constituents, or as his fears suggested. It was remarked by some shrewd member that there was this singularity about the question—the private conversation of the members was all one way, and the votes all the other.

HOW PETITIONS ARE GOT UP.

And now, do our readers suppose that all this excitement, these sixteen bags of petitions, this rush of members, was spontaneous? If they do, all we can say is, poor dear reader! If the people had been let alone, we will venture to say that not fifty petitions would have been forthcoming. As we passed through the lobby, we are much mistaken if we did not see the mover of all this excitement. In the corner there stood an elderly man in a dingy white neckcloth and seedy black coat. This man is the agent of a certain society. He is always there when any question of this sort is before the House, and he it is who, through the medium of the penny post, "calls spirits from the vasty deep;" and, what is more, "they come when he does call." This worthy gentleman lives on those attempts at Sabbath desecration; and, though we have no reason to doubt his sincerity, we should not be surprised to hear that he frequently toasts in a bumper, Sir Joshua Walsley and Mr. Heywood. That this is the way in which this excitement is got up, a glance at the bulk of the petitions will at once prove. In the first place, there is a very suspicious uniformity of appearance as to size and colour of the paper, and, on opening them, the fact is proved at once. Three-fourths are in the same words, and a great number in the same handwriting. The simple truth is, that the number of petitions on almost any subject before the House, depends not upon the real excitement of the people upon the question, but is the result of organisation, energy, and money. Set on foot a central committee, and supply it with money, and there will be very little difficulty in flooding the House with petitions on any subject. Nor must we forget the little arts, manoeuvres, and colourings, used to induce people to sign. For instance, what does John Stubble, of Stowton-in-the-Clay, know about the British Museum or the National Gallery? Nothing! He signed, or rather, "axed" (as he phrased it) the minister to sign for him, "soz he heard that they wur a going to do away with the Sunday." We express no opinion on the knotty point lately decided, but are merely describing the manner in which petitions are got up. Soon the House will be besieged with petitions on the question of marriage with a deceased (or, as the waggish Members have it "diseased") wife's sister. And then another agent will be seen watching in the lobby, known there familiarly as "the diseased wife." When the Maynooth grant is on, Dr. T. G. comes on the scene. On Church Rates there is a master-spirit, also well known. This is really a glimpse of the "Inner Life of the House." A dingy man in black, in a dingy room, is supplied by invisible hands with paper, pens, ink, and money for postage stamps; and therewith he moves the people, the people move their representatives, and they rush inconspicuously up to town, and by their votes, stop or advance the matter in hand, and sometimes overthrow the Government, change the policy of the nation, send down or up the funds, and in no slight degree influence the government of the whole world.

During the debate on this question, after the presentation of petitions was over, the House was very thin until the time when the division was confidently expected. Then there were about 300 in; but on the ringing of the division bell upwards of a hundred more came in, from the Dining-room, Smoking-room, and the Library. There was an incident during the debate, not uncommon, but always amusing. The Lobby had been quiet for some time, although the strangers were numerous, when, suddenly, the doors of the House flew open, and out rushed a crowd of Members. "Why, what's the matter? Is the House up?" "No," was the answer; "Mr. F. Murrough is up, that's all!"

On Friday night, Sir John Maclure, the discoverer of the N.W. passage, was in the House. He is about to start for the White Sea.

MR. R. LOWE'S LOCAL DUES ON SHIPPING.

Monday night, Feb. 25.—The excitement in the lobby to-night, is not so great as it was on Thursday, but in the House the number of Members larger. There is evidently a severe "whip" on both sides; and a nervous excitement on the part of the Government. The Galleries are crowded; and under the Gallery every seat is filled by a country Mayor, or an Alderman, or a Town-Clerk. The Mayors of Liverpool, Hull, Manchester, &c., &c., are present; and there are also many of the London Corporation there, making common cause with their country friends. The Bill does not touch the Metropolis; but, as it attacks misappropriation of Corporate Funds, it is quite natural for the London Corporation to help to secure its defeat.

KING BOMBA AND THE BEARD MOVEMENT.—On a recent public occasion, the King of Sicily was astonished at the crop of hair displayed on the faces of his subjects, and exclaimed that one might fancy himself in Turin. The beard is therefore doomed, and though the police does its spitting gently, it does not do it less effectually. The change in the Neapolitan face is very perceptible, and no wonder when royalty declares itself an enemy to hair, and commissaries and inspectors tap one on the shoulder, and remind you that the face would be vastly improved by being shaven. One Sunday evening a party of five were ordered out of a café, where they were playing cards, into the presence of a commissary, and directed to shave. A sixth was let alone because he had divided his beard.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

The interest which the question of the Wensleydale peerage has excited was evident from the unusually large number of Peers present, the full attendance of Peers' sons behind the woolsack, and the crowd of ladies and strangers in those parts of the House designed for their accommodation.

THE WENSLEYDALE PEERAGE.

Lord GLENELG moved that the following questions should be submitted 'to the judges:—Whether it is in the power of the Crown to create by patent the dignity of Baron of the United Kingdom for life? and what rights and privileges were by such patent conferred?

Lord CAMPBELL contended that the point should be decided by parliamentary rather than by judicial authority. Practical and technical difficulties stood in the way of the plan under consideration. It might not be found easy to bring all the judges together, or possible to obtain accordance in their opinions. In any event their decision would be delivered too late to be available for present purposes.

The Lord CHANCELLOR, in supporting the motion, enforced the propriety of obtaining the best possible opinion respecting the legality of life patents before proceeding to further discussion.

The Earl of Winchelsea and Lord Brougham opposed the motion; Earl Granville supported it.

On a division, the numbers were—

Contents—Present, 62; proxies, 49: total..... 111
Non-contents—Present, 97; proxies, 45: total..... 142
Majority against the motion..... 31

The House having gone into a committee of privileges, Lord LYNCHURST moved that—"The committee have, as directed by the House, examined and considered the copy of the letters patent purporting to create the Right Hon. Sir James Parke, Knight, a Baron of the United Kingdom for life; and they report it as their opinion that neither the said letters patent, nor the said letters patent with the usual writ or summons issued in pursuance thereof, can entitle the grantee therein named to sit and vote in Parliament."

Earl GREY moved, as an amendment, "That the highest legal authorities having concurred in declaring the Crown to possess the power of creating peerages for life, and this power having in some cases been exercised in former times, the House of Lords would not be justified in assuming the illegality of the patent creating the Right Hon. Sir James Parke Baron Wensleydale for life, and in refusing upon that assumption to permit him to take his seat as a peer."

Earl STANHOPE supported the motion. The Duke of ARGYLE argued that the proposed interference with the Royal prerogative was of more questionable legality, and established a more dangerous precedent, than the creation of a life peerage.

Lord BROUGHAM avowed that the doubt which he entertained at the outset as to the legality of the creation had been removed. His conviction now was that the power to create a life peerage, so as to be also a peer of Parliament, was entirely beyond the prerogative of the Crown, and that any patent so framed would be invalid and illegal. Life peerages had, at all periods, been unknown to the law.

The Lord CHANCELLOR opposed the resolution of Lord Lynchurst, and their Lordships divided, when the original motion was carried by a majority of 35, the numbers being—For the original motion, 92; against it, 57. No proxies were used on either side, the House being in committee.—Their Lordships then adjourned at twenty minutes past one o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

EDUCATION.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL, in answer to Sir John Pakington, as to the course he intended to take in reference to his resolutions on the subject of national education, mentioned that he would make a statement on the 6th of March, and submit his resolutions, but would defer till a future day asking the House to pass an opinion upon them.

THE TERRITORIES OF OUDE.

Mr. V. SMITH, in reply to Mr. Otway, announced that the papers relating to the kingdom of Oude would shortly be laid on the table. The present state of affairs with relation to that kingdom amounted, he added, to this—that, owing to the prevalence of disorders, a large discretionary power of interference had been given to the Governor-General; but no annexation had as yet been accomplished.

After a remonstrance from Sir E. Perry against the policy of annexation, followed by a few words from Sir J. W. Hogg, Mr. J. G. Phillimore, and Mr. Roebuck, the subject dropped.

WAYS AND MEANS—FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER proceeded to move a series of resolutions on the subject of finance. Although the financial year had not yet terminated, the inevitable demands of the war had, he said, compelled him to forestall the customary statement in so far as to call upon the House to make a preliminary provision for immediate outlay. Referring to the estimates of revenue and expenditure which he had propounded last session, Sir G. C. Lewis stated that in reality the income had fallen short of his anticipation by about £1,600,000, and the expenditure had swollen by £1,960,000, beyond his original computation. This left the Exchequer worse off by £3,560,000, than had been calculated upon; and by this discrepancy the margin of four millions which he had provided for the contingent expenses of the year was nearly swallowed up, and the Treasury left bare of surplus to meet accruing demands. By the resolutions he had now to propose, the Government would obtain power to raise a new loan of five millions, thus covering the past deficiency, and furnishing a small surplus for future expenses. To show the total cost of the war, the Chancellor of the Exchequer compared the outlay upon all military services, including commissariat and transport, for the 22½ months during which hostilities had now lasted, with that for a similar period in time of peace. The former, he observed, showed a total of £74,549,000, and the latter of 30,984,000, and the difference, namely, £43,565,000, constituted the gross total of charge incurred on account of the war. By this new loan of five millions, the whole sum borrowed during the current financial year would be raised to 28 millions, and although this sum appeared large, he adduced proofs from the trade and revenue returns, to show that the country was rich and strong enough to bear a far greater burthen without suffering. Besides the loan, the Right Hon. Baronet announced his intention to ask authority for funding Exchequer Bills, to the amount of three millions. With these aids to the supplies of the year, the Treasury would be replaced in the position which it had been desired to secure when the estimates were framed in April last, and means furnished to carry on operations until time had been allowed to ascertain the results of the approaching conferences in Paris.

Sir H. WILLOUGHBY commented upon the loose manner in which the estimates had been prepared, and inquired why five millions were to be borrowed on account of a deficiency so much less in amount.

Mr. W. WILLIAMS regretted to find that the new loan was to be raised in so inconceivable stock as the three per cent. consols.

Mr. GLADSTONE warned Hon. Members not to beguile themselves with the belief that the amount stated by the Finance Minister would constitute the whole outlay upon the war. When the bills all came in, and affairs were wound up, the total charge in all probability would prove at least half as much more.

The resolutions were agreed to.

SUPPLY.

On the motion of going into committee on supply, Colonel DUNNE called attention to the new organisation of the War Department, and the contracts and methods of supplying the army with clothing, arms, accoutrements, and requirements; also to the expenses incurred for foreign troops. He complained that the army estimates were presented in a confused and unintelligible shape.

THE ARMY ESTIMATES.

Mr. MONSELL moved the army and ordnance estimates, beginning with the supplementary votes, and taking occasion to mention that measures had been taken, and were still in progress, for the strict inspection of stores, and that the plan of examination of applicants for cadetships had proved eminently successful. In connection with the votes for 1856-7, Mr. Monsell spoke of the healthy state of the army in the Crimea, the satisfactory age of the recruits who had been sent out, the high state of discipline of the army, the means taken to relieve the soldier from deductions for his kit, the increase of his pay by 6d. in the day, improved mode of letting canteens, and the like. The establishment of the medical staff had been attended with the best results, and the civil hospitals had also proved eminently successful. The number of men to be asked for was 246,716, being 30,000 more than were voted last year. Of this increase the Artillery and the Sappers and Miners had shared to a considerable extent. Amongst the new works was an establishment for casting iron guns. Hitherto the Ordnance had confined itself to casting brass guns, trusting to contract for supplies of iron guns, but the experience of last year had shown that that mode of supply could not be depended upon either as regarded quantity or quality. He was ashamed to make the admission, but true it was that, as regarded iron ordnance, the English artillery was the most inferior in Europe.

The supplemental votes were agreed to, and at a quarter after twelve o'clock progress was reported.

The House then adjourned at twenty-five minutes to one o'clock.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

A few petitions against the opening of places of amusement on Sunday were presented.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION OF THE HOUSE OF PEERS.

Lord LYNCHURST gave notice that in a few days he should call attention to

the existing provision for the transaction of judicial business in their Lordships' house, with the view of making some improvements therein.

BARON WENSLEYDALE'S LIFE PEERAGE.

Lord REDESDALE brought up the report from the Committee of Privileges of this case. On the motion,

Earl GRANVILLE stated that the Government did not intend to oppose the motion; and on behalf of Lord Wensleydale assured the House that no attempt would be made to take his seat until full time had been allowed for consideration by all parties.

The Earl of DERBY, added some remarks upon the general question of life peerages. For all political functions he contended that the introduction of life peers into the House would be altogether injurious; and as regarded the better performance of the judicial duties, on which so much stress was laid, he believed that the remedy would prove worse than the disease it was intended to cure.

The Marquis of Lansdowne, the Earl of Malmesbury, Earl Harrowby, Earl Grey, Lord Redesdale, and other peers having spoken, the motion was agreed to. Their Lordships adjourned at seven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Petitions against, and in favour of, the Local Dues on Shipping, &c., Bill; petitions against the opening of the Crystal Palace, &c., on Sundays, and other measures, were presented.

NEW WRIT.

A new writ was ordered to be issued for the election of a knight of the shire to serve in Parliament for the County of Rutland, in the room of Sir G. J. Heathcote, who had accepted the office of steward of the Chiltern Hundreds.

THE CRIMEAN COMMISSION OF INQUIRY.

Mr. ROEBUCK gave notice that he would move on Friday next—"That to appoint a commission of general officers to report upon the report of Sir John M'Neill and Colonel Tulloch, is to substitute an inefficient for a very efficient means of investigation, and that such appointment will tend to strengthen an opinion already prevalent that the real purpose of such proceeding is to shelter incompetence and excuse the misconduct of those by whom various departments of our army have been subjected to the command of proved incapacity."

SMITHFIELD MARKET.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in reply to Mr. Seymour, said that the Government had come to no decision on the subject of turning the site of the late Smithfield Market into a dead meat market.

LOCAL DUES ON SHIPPING BILL.

Mr. LOWE moved the second reading of this bill. Sir FREDERICK THESIGER moved, as an amendment, that the bill be read a second time that day six months. He regarded the measure as fraught with the greatest injustice, and attempted to be established upon principles which tended to shake the security of all corporate property. He expressed his surprise that, in the latter period of the 19th century, a Government could have been found prepared to act upon such principles as those announced and enforced by the Vice-President of the Board of Trade. Attacks, however, had not been reserved merely for corporate property—an attempt had just been made by the revival of a dubious and obsolete prerogative to assail the hereditary peerage. Sir Frederick proceeded to reply to Mr. Lowe's speech, and to instance the case of individual corporations, beginning with Liverpool, with the view of showing that the dues sought to be confiscated possessed all the characteristics of private property. The same remark applied to the Hull Dock Company and the Corporation of Bristol. Several precedents had been adduced by Mr. Lowe, but they failed to make good his case as regarded private property held by corporations. The Trinity House was a public corporation, established for a public purpose, and its revenues were fair subjects for being dealt with by Parliament. There could be no harm in abolishing the passing tolls, for to do so would not interfere with private property; but the arrangements under that head in the bill were merely calculated to disguise the large act of spoliation.

Sir F. BARING objected to the bill, first, because it exhibited a determination to interfere with local self-government; and next, that throughout the bill, he recognised a reckless disregard of public and Parliamentary faith. Mr. LOWE remarked that the House was perhaps indebted to the speech they had just heard, to the circumstance that Portsmouth derived £3,800 annually from the passing tolls. Mr. Lowe defended his bill against the severe strictures of Sir Frederick Thesiger, maintaining that the Learned Gentleman had construed taxes into private property. Mr. Lowe adverted to the claim set up in defence of Liverpool and some other corporations, with the view of showing that the plea of private property was untenable. He adverted to the sweeping municipal reform of 1835, and argued that that measure formed a perfect precedent for the course he asked the House now to pursue.

Mr. HORSFALL, in opposing the bill, spoke of the case of Liverpool, and remarked that, of the £105,000 levied by the corporation, only £1,000 was received from the shipping, all the rest came from goods, and that was paid by the consumer.

Mr. RIDLEY, in a maiden speech, argued that the bill presented an attempt to legislate upon property on principles of injustice and wrong.

Mr. COLLIER highly approved of the bill. It would sweep away an iniquitous series of taxes, which the inhabitants of certain towns exacted from the shipping interest for their own benefit, and without rendering any service in return. The perpetration of these local shipping dues was wholly undefended on the score of policy and expediency. When first established, the dues were designed to reimburse the outlay in constructing and maintaining the harbours, or in other purposes calculated to advantage the shipowner. As this application of the taxes in question had ceased, or whenever it was found to have ceased, the right to levy them at once fell to the ground.

Mr. HILDYARD contended that the mass of property with which the bill proposed to deal was held upon tenures for which Parliament was a guarantee.

Several Members then spoke, either objecting to the bill as a whole, or to some of its clauses.

Mr. BAINE then observed that a few sections of the measure, such as those relating to the abolition of passing tolls, found general approbation. Respecting local dues, the bill only professed to regulate them; and the broad principle whereon it proceeded was to provide that no tax should be levied except in return for benefits conferred or services rendered. His own constituents in Leeds were thus mulcted by the local impost on wool paid to the Corporation of either Liverpool or Hull, and from which they obtained no compensating advantage.

The debate was ultimately adjourned.

THROUGHFARE THROUGH ST. JAMES'S PARK.

Sir BENJAMIN HALL's motion for a "select committee to consider the best means of communication between those parts of the metropolis which lie north of the St. James's Park, and those parts which lie south and south-west thereof, and to report thereupon to the House," was agreed to.

The House adjourned at ten minutes to one.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Earl of SHAFTESBURY presented several petitions against the opening of the British Museum, &c., on Sundays.

THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF PORTRAITS.

The Earl of STANHOPE gave notice that on Tuesday next he would move an address to her Majesty praying her to take into her consideration, in connection with the site of the present National Gallery, the practicability and expediency of forming a gallery of original portraits, to consist, as far as possible, of those persons who were most honourably commemorated in British history as warriors, or as statesmen, or in arts, in literature, and in science.

THE MERCANTILE LAWS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The Lord CHANCELLOR, in calling attention to the second report of the commissioners appointed to inquire into the commercial law, spoke of the various anomalies and inconsistencies which these laws exhibited, and showed the necessity of assimilating the commercial enactments at present in force in different parts of the United Kingdom.

The Joint-Stock Banks (Scotland) Bill went through committee.

Their Lordships adjourned at 25 minutes to six o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Sir Andrew Agnew took the oaths and his seat for Wiltshire. Petitions were presented against the opening of the British Museum on Sundays, and the Local Dues Shipping Bill; in favour of the Medical Profession Bill, and the abolition of Church rates.

ROAD FROM TREBIZOND TO ERZERUM.

Lord PALMERSTON, in answer to Mr. Ewart, stated, that the English Government had made strong representations to the Ottoman Porte in favour of the construction of a serviceable road from Trebizond to Erzerum, and similar representations would again be made.

THE CRIMEAN COMMISSION.

Sir J. PAKINGTON gave notice that, when Mr. Roebuck's motion respecting the Crimean Commission Report was brought forward, on Friday, he should propose an amendment, setting forth that the report should have been submitted to the Commander-in-Chief before its presentation to Parliament, in which case the necessity of any subsequent reference to a board of officers would have been obviated.

NEW MILITARY COMMISSION.

Viscount PALMERSTON, in reply to Mr. Roebuck, said the names of the new military commission appointed to report on the report of Sir J. M'Neill and Colonel Tulloch, were—Lord Seaton, General M'Mahon, Sir J. Bell, Earl Beauchamp, General Peel, and General Knowles.

WITHDRAWAL OF THE LOCAL DUES ON SHIPPING BILL.

Lord PALMERSTON intimated the intention of the Government to refer the whole question to a select committee. Explaining the motives on which this determination was based, and which, he observed, arose chiefly from the complicated nature of the local rights and interests to be dealt with in the measure, the Noble Lord added that, under these circumstances, it was considered more

convenient, as well as more respectful to the House, to withdraw the present bill altogether.

Mr. DISRAELI congratulated the Government upon the wisdom and prudence evinced in this withdrawal of a measure which had received, and, as he believed, deserved, universal condemnation. He said, "The Opposition has not defeated them; their own supporters have not defeated them. Themselves alone are the authors of their present condition—themselves alone have brought about a state of Parliamentary affairs which they admit is most deplorable and much to be deprecated. In another place what a scene has been witnessed! At a moment when the utmost forbearance was shown to the Government, they must needs enter into a crusade against all the legal authorities of the realm. But this is not all. Not satisfied with attacking the constitution of the hereditary peerage of England—not satisfied with enacting all these deplorable scandals connected with the officers in the army, you must seize the occasion to attack the municipalities of England. We have now sat a month. On both sides of the House there has been only an anxious desire to veil the weakness of the Government, if they be weak; but during that month, so important to the destinies of the empire, the Government have sustained a startling defeat in both Houses of Parliament."

Mr. LABOUCHERE remarked that from the specimen which had just been given of party spirit, the probability was, that had the debate gone on, it would have degenerated into a party struggle.

The proposal to refer the question of shipping dues to a select committee was then agreed to, and the bill withdrawn.

The Charitable Uses Bill was read a third time and passed.

The members who were to officiate upon the select committees appointed to inquire into the Procedure of the Irish Court of Chancery, and the means of facilitating communication across St. James's Park, were nominated after some miscellaneous discussion.

The House adjourned at seven o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. MITCHELL moved the discharge of the Contractors Disqualification Bill, which, after some conversation, was agreed to.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE QUALIFICATION BILL.

Mr. COLVILLE, in moving the second reading of this bill, said he wished to extend the qualification for justices of the peace to persons possessing £300 a year in personal property, or who were in receipt of pensions to that amount from the government or the East India Company.

After several Members had spoken for and against the Bill, it was read a second time, and ordered to be committed on April 16th.

ANNUITIES BILL.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER moved the second reading of this Bill. He was unwilling to press the House to any decision on the principle of the liability of loan contractors prematurely or without due consideration. The course he proposed to take was to introduce in committee a clause relieving the subscribers to the existing loan, simply declaring that they shall not be liable to any penalties under the Contractors' Act.

The bill was then read a second time, and ordered to be committed next day.

The Exchequer Bills Funding Bill was read a second time.

The House adjourned at ten minutes to two o'clock.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Charitable Uses Bill was brought up from the Commons, and read a first time. The Joint-Stock Banks (Scotland) Bill went through committee.

The Turnpike Trusts Arrangements Bill was read a second time, after a brief discussion.

THE APPELLATE JURISDICTION OF THE PEERS.

The Earl of DERBY moved "for a select committee to inquire whether it was expedient to make any, and if so what, provision for more effectually securing the efficient exercise of the functions of that House as a court of appellate jurisdiction; and to report their opinion thereupon."

Earl GRANVILLE consented, on the part of the Government, to the appointment of the committee. He suggested, however, that certain words should be added to the motion, instructing the committee to inquire further what effect any such provisions as might be proposed for the better exercise of the appellate jurisdiction would have upon the general character of the House. By this addition he simply wished to enlarge the scope of the inquiry so as to include some of the questions arising out of the Wensleydale peerage.

After remarks from Lord Campbell, Lord St. Leonards, and the Lord Chancellor, the resolution, as amended, was agreed to, and their Lordships adjourned at ten minutes past eight o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE CRIMEAN COMMISSION.

Lord PALMERSTON, in reply to Lord Stanley, stated that the proceedings of the board of officers appointed to inquire into the Crimean army report would be open to the public. With regard to examination upon oath, the board had not the power to administer an oath.

OUR MONETARY SYSTEM.

Mr. MUNZ moved for a select committee to inquire how far the present monetary system is in accordance with the requirements of the country, and to consider if it cannot be improved and amended. He had studied the question for upwards of forty years, and he challenged anybody to show from his writings or speeches that the change he recommended would have led to an inconvertible paper currency. In dealing with the question, he would take a retrospective view, and go back as far as William the Conqueror. (Laughter.) Gentlemen may laugh, but he could tell them that, in the time of the Conqueror, a pound was a pound weight of silver.

Mr. GLYN thought, after the experience of 1847, some inquiry should be made before the Bank Charter Act is renewed. He could not see why the limit of £14,000,000 should be insisted upon in times of difficulty, or that the country should, under all circumstances, have that amount of notes inflicted upon it, whether they be needed or not.

After several gentlemen had spoken on the question before the House, The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said he could not understand what the exact subjects of inquiry would be, but judging from what had fallen from Mr. Munz, he would put it to the House whether a committee of fifteen members was capable of conducting an inquiry of so speculative and abstract a kind.

Mr. SPOONER denounced the Act of 1844, declaring that it resulted alternately in an efflux of gold and a general depression of prices, afflicting the country by turns with a hollow prosperity and a disastrous collapse.

Sir CHARLES WOOD controverted Mr. Spooner's opinions, maintaining that the rate of interest did not depend upon the currency, but upon the amount of available capital. His definition of a pound was that it represented 123 grains and a fraction of gold, and that when the Bank of England issued a five-pound note, it was bound to have in its coffers five times 123 grains of gold wherewith to redeem it. Sir Charles Wood warned the House against assenting to an inquiry advocated on the grounds stated by Mr. Munz.

Mr. MUNZ replied; and the House divided.

For the motion, 68; against the motion, 115. Majority against, 47.

CASE OF "TALBOT V. TALBOT."

Mr. J. G. PHILLIMORE moved for copies of a judgment given in the Irish Court of Common Pleas in a case of "Talbot v. Talbot," in May, 1855; as also of the evidence taken thereon. Mr. Phillimore remarked that he had no personal knowledge of the persons; but when he learnt the allegations which were made, the account "chilled his blood and made him so sick." (A laugh.) The trial in question he alleged had been conducted in a questionable manner, and its result inflicted such cruel injustice on Mrs. Talbot, one of the parties to the suit, that the House was warranted in taking some steps for its rectification. The commission of this injustice he attributed in a great measure to the incapacity of the judge (Mr. Justice Torrens) who presided at the trial in question.

Mr. EWART seconded the motion.

Mr. WHITESTONE attributed the present movement to the success which attended Sir John Shelley's motion on a previous evening. Upon that occasion the oldest judge on the Irish bench was assailed, and now the youngest of the three was the subject of attack. Mr. Whitestone gave his version of the affair, rebutting Mr. Phillimore's inferences as to the innocence of Mrs. Talbot, and maintaining that such motions were fatal to the independence of the bench and the administration of justice. If the present motion had any object at all, it must be to prejudice the proceedings going on in the House of Lords.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL for Ireland advised the House, upon Parliamentary and constitutional grounds, to negative the motion. He did so without expressing any opinion as to the guilt or innocence of Mrs. Talbot.

After a few words from Mr. Packer and Mr. Walpole,

Lord PALMERSTON suggested the propriety of withdrawing the motion without calling upon the House to divide upon it.

Mr. J. G. PHILLIMORE thereupon gave way, and the motion was negatived without a division.

The Drainage Advances Act Amendment Bill was read a third time and passed. The Annuities Bill, the Consolidated Fund (£1,681,005 1s. 5d.) Bill, and the Exchequer Bills Funding Bill, were respectively passed through committee. The House adjourned at half-past 12.

ACQUITTAL OF DANISH MINISTERS—FORTIFICATION OF STOCKHOLM.

BERLIN, Feb. 28.—All the Danish Ministers impeached for misapplication of the State funds, were acquitted yesterday.

A committee has been constituted at Stockholm to examine and deliberate upon the plans for fortifying the capital.



BARON DE BOURQUENAY.

MEHMEMMED DJEMIL BEY.

LORD COWLEY.

COUNT CAVOUR.

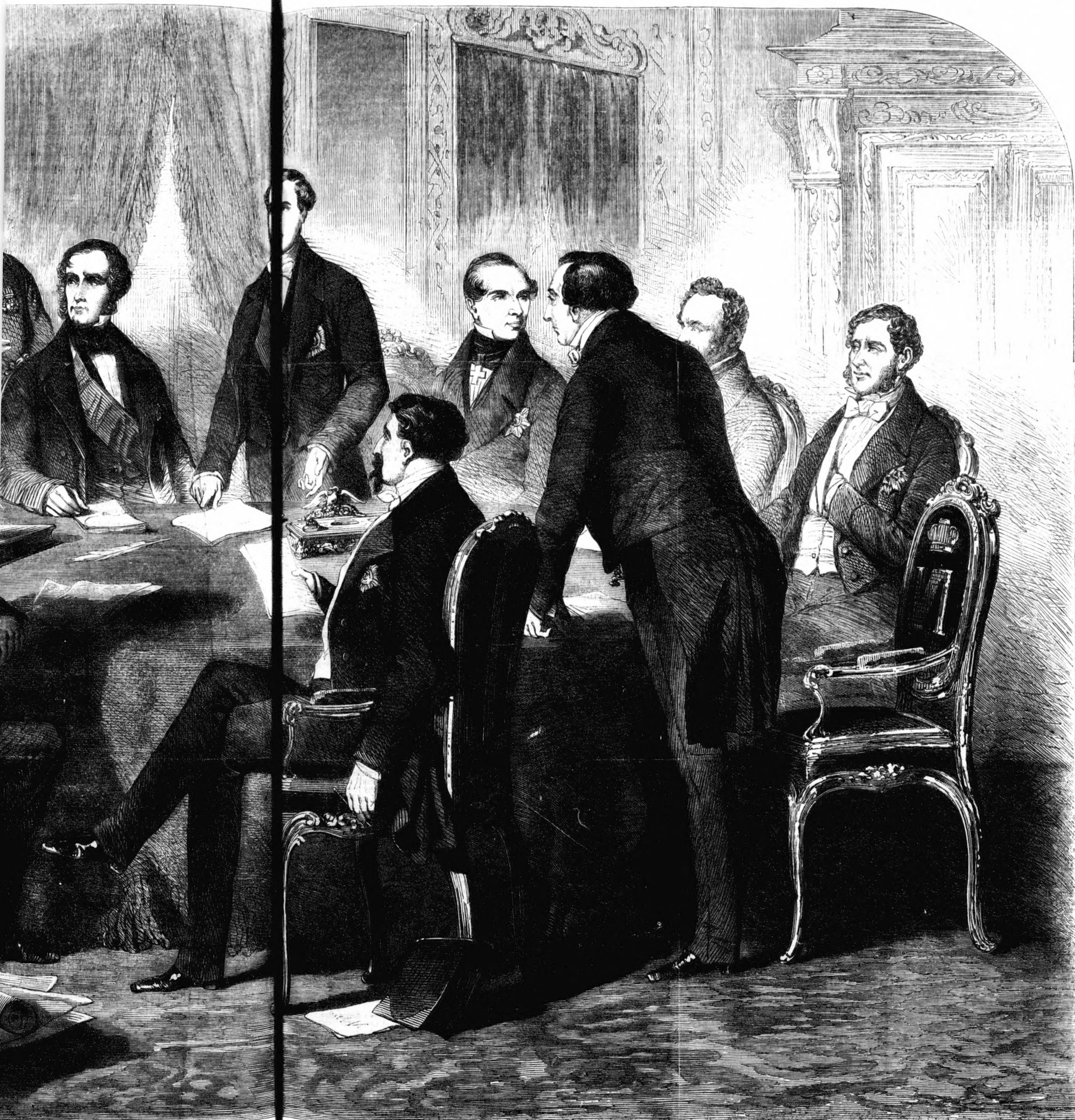
AALI PACHA.

EARL OF CLARENDON.

COUNT WALLENBERG.

MARQUIS VILLAMARINA.

BARON DE BRUNOW.



EARL OF CLARENDON.

COUNT WALEWSKI.

MARQUIS VILLAMARINA.

BARON DE BRUNOW.

BARON HUEBNER.

COUNT ORLOFF.

COUNT BUOL-SCHAUSENSTEIN.

THE PEACE CONFERENCES AT THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PARIS.

THE PEACE CONFERENCE AT PARIS.

THERE is, at present, in circulation a story connected with the Russian war, which shows that superstition has not yet vanished from the earth, and that, even in the nineteenth century, credulity has a pretty large swallow. About the close of January, 1854, so runs the legend, the Czar Nicholas, while alone in his study, saw all at once before him a monk of gigantic stature, of whom he instantly asked "what he wanted." The monk said he wanted to talk with the Czar upon the war he was about to rush into. The Czar said that was not his business; wherefore the monk answered, "I have come to warn you. Remember this: if you are really undertaking this war for pure motives, and for the glory of the Orthodox Church, you will succeed; but if not—if you are obeying the dictates of your ambition, you will fail; and not only will your armies be vanquished, but you yourself will come to an untimely end before the close of the year." The Czar, exasperated at finding any being interfering with his sovereign will, rushed at the monk, and called the guards from the waiting-room. The guards came in and found the Czar clutching at thin air, and apparently in a great rage, and constantly calling out to them—"The monk! the monk! who among you has seen the monk? Stop him! prevent him from escaping."

Nicholas, despising this warning, went to war, and died; but adversity, a more potent counsellor of kings than visionary monks, taught his successor something like wisdom. The new Czar, in his perplexity, resorted to intrigue. Russia contrived to communicate to France the concessions she was willing to make, and in addition offered to France special advantages. These temptations, however, the Emperor resisted, although the alliance offered by Russia opened the widest field to French ambition and love of conquest. Considerable territorial acquisitions were to be the price and the result of the union of the two most aggressive military Powers; but it involved a breach of the Emperor with England, which would have thrown him into the same path as his uncle had unfortunately trodden. The Emperor, on refusing these overtures, communicated them to London and Vienna. Austria became suddenly alive to the danger to which she had been exposed, and resolved upon forthwith putting herself on an unequal footing towards all parties. The proposals she drew up for a peace, after being revised and somewhat sharpened in London and Paris, were forwarded to St. Petersburg, and accepted. All the rest is pretty well known, and now we have the Peace Conference, illustrated by the engraving in another page.

The scene of deliberations so important to the destinies of Europe is the hotel of the French Minister for Foreign Affairs. The accommodation is on a far greater scale than that provided for the Vienna Congress in 1815. The French Foreign Office, of which an illustration appears on another page, is one of the most magnificent mansions of Paris, situated on the banks of the Seine, not far from the Legislative Chambers. It has magnificent suites of apartments, but lately completed, with elaborate decorations—more gorgeous, indeed, than those of the imperial residence of the Tuileries. One of these rooms has been fitted up expressly for the Congress, and provided with a long table and crimson chairs, such as ought to make the Plenipotentiaries feel at their ease.

The Conference opened at one o'clock on Monday, all the Plenipotentiaries being present. The latter arrived at the place of the sitting without formality and in their ordinary dress. The representative of Piedmont was the first, and the representative of Russia the last to arrive. Let us, with brevity, refer to the career of the chief personages who on this occasion represent the nations of Europe who have acquired the right to take part in these important deliberations.

COUNT WALEWSKI AND BARON DE BOURQUENEY.

The Plenipotentiaries, whether representing great or small states, at the Conference, are supposed to be on a footing of equality; but Count Walewski, as Minister for Foreign Affairs in the country where the assemblage takes place, has the honour of presiding. We therefore commence with a sketch of the Count.

When the Great Napoleon was at the height of his marvellous destinies, he was attracted, at a *fiête* at Warsaw, by a young Polish lady of great beauty, the wife of a noble Sarmatian advanced in years; and being regarded by her as the destined liberator of Poland, he was successful in winning her affections. After a violent struggle between duty and passion, the Countess Walewski, yielding to the impetuous tenderness characteristic of the victor of Austerlitz, was carried off from her husband and country, and, ere long, gave birth to a son. Afterwards, as Lamartine says, "adversity rendered her fault almost sacred."

Count Alexander Colonna Walewski inherited the patriotism which had animated the bosom of his beautiful mother. He early signalled himself in the army of patriot Poles, and, in later years, espoused a Florentine lady, who was granddaughter of Stanislas Poniatowski, nephew of the last King of Poland. After having taken part in the insurrection of 1831, he appeared in England as envoy of the Revolutionary Government, and has since been a member of the Polish Association.

It appears that, as time passed on, Count Walewski served as a French officer in Africa, and while in that capacity, distinguished himself so highly by his ability in a mission to Abd-el-Kader, that he opened up for himself a diplomatic career. Having figured as French ambassador at Florence, Naples, and Madrid, he was at length accredited to the Court of England; and from that position, which he occupied with so much distinction and popularity, Count Walewski was recalled, last summer, to undertake the duties of French Minister for Foreign Affairs—a post which he has since filled with no small credit and dignity.

Count Walewski, though still young, is quite a veteran in diplomacy, and has qualities which peculiarly qualify him to preside over a small assembly of eminent and able men. He is himself a most distinguished man of the world, of amiable disposition and manners, at all times benevolent and courteous. In his presence, there is no reason to dread that the bounds of debate will be transgressed, or the orator be carried beyond propriety by strong love of right and the legitimate ardour of patriotic zeal.

Baron de Bourqueney will on this occasion be associated with Count Walewski. The Baron commenced his career as Secretary of Embassy at Rome, when Chateaubriand was ambassador there. After the Revolution of 1830, he returned to Paris, and while holding a post in the Foreign Office, acquired a thorough knowledge of the details of diplomatic business. He subsequently held posts in London and Constantinople, and was known for his Orleanist predilections up to March, 1853, when he accepted from Louis Napoleon the office of ambassador at Vienna. As such he appeared in March, 1855, as one of the plenipotentiaries at the Vienna Conference.

AALI PACHA.

Aali Pacha, who is to represent Turkey, and is a man of high character and long experience, commenced his career in a humble employment in the public offices of the Sublime Porte. By dint of a severe application to serious studies, very unusual among his countrymen, he has won for himself distinction as a statesman, and also the reputation of being the most erudite scholar of his nation. His manners are distinguished; his countenance delicate and expressive. Unlike many of the public men of his country, he is free from the charge of venality, and his only luxury is the magnificence of his library. In politics, he belongs to what is called the national party, which acknowledges Mehmet Ali for its chief.

Aali Pacha, when beginning his public career, was ambassador in England, and on being recalled to Constantinople, filled, for six years, the office of Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs. In 1852, he was placed at the head of the Government, but resigning the post in favour of Mehmet Ali, he was nominated Governor of Broussa, and afterwards chosen President of the Council of Tansimat. About the close of 1854, he became once more Foreign Minister at the Porte, and next spring was sent as plenipotentiary to Vienna. He was subsequently promoted to the dignity of Grand Vizier, and, as First Minister of the Sultan, now appears in the French capital, attended by Mehmet Djemil Bey, the Turkish Ambassador at Paris.

COUNT BUOL-SCHAUENSTEIN AND BARON DE HUEBNER.

Count Buol belongs to a family whose members were in the service of the Hapsburgs, shortly after the latter emerged from obscurity; and the name which he bears has been known in the diplomatic world for more than a century. He was born about sixty years ago, in Switzerland, where his father was then Austrian Minister; and, at nineteen, he entered the

diplomatic service of the Court of Vienna, as attaché at Florence. He was afterwards Secretary of Legation at the Hague, at Paris, and in London, and, as years rolled on, Ambassador at Karlsruhe and other places. He happened to be Ambassador at Turin, in 1848, when Charles Albert crossed the Austrian frontier, and, on his own responsibility, demanded his passports, a step which is said to have given much satisfaction to his own Government. He was subsequently sent as Ambassador to St. Petersburg, but in 1851 removed to London, where he remained till April, 1852, when, on the sudden death of Prince Schwarzenberg, he was appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs at the Court of Vienna. In that character he has negotiated many important treaties, and naturally given much attention to the Russian war. Baron de Huebner, the Austrian Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Paris, also takes part in the Conference as colleague of Count Buol.

Baron de Huebner was born at Vienna in 1811; and, having completed his studies at the university of that capital, he passed some time in Italy, and in 1833 entered on his diplomatic career under the auspices of Metternich. In 1838, he was sent as attaché to the Austrian Embassy in Paris. When, in 1841, after a long interruption of diplomatic relations between Austria and Portugal, the Court of Vienna recognised the throne of Queen Donna Maria, M. de Huebner went to Lisbon as secretary of embassy. He left Portugal in 1844 to become chargé d'affaires at the ducal court of Anhalt, and filled at the same time the functions of Austrian consul-general at Leipsic. At the commencement of 1848, when the diplomatic correspondence of the Archduke Reynier, the Viceroy of the Lombardo-Venetian Kingdom, acquired every day more importance from the agitation which prevailed in that country, the direction of it was confided to M. de Huebner. When the insurrection broke out at Milan, he was detained in that city as a hostage, but after a captivity of several months, was exchanged. On returning to Vienna in the autumn of that year, he remained completely aloof from public affairs.

At the insurrection of Vienna, he made himself conspicuous for his utter fear of danger, by passing the revolutionary lines amidst a shower of balls, to confer with Prince Schwarzenberg, and again quietly facing still greater peril, when sent for by the Emperor at Schonbrunn. It was this minister who drew up the acts of abdication of the Emperor Ferdinand, that of the Archduke Francis Charles, and the imperial declaration of Francis Joseph.

From the close of 1848 to March, 1849, he remained with the Prince at Olmutz, and directed the political correspondence of the foreign department. At the end of March, 1849, he was sent on a mission to Paris, of which he acquitted himself with such success, that, some months after, he was accredited to the Court of the Tuileries.

COUNT CAVOUR.

The Sardinian Plenipotentiary is a man well worthy of the position he occupies, and of the favour of the admirable Sovereign whose minister he is. Count Camille Cavour is descended from one of the most ancient and noble families of his country. From his earliest youth, he has assiduously cultivated the study of political economy, and with singular success. Attached to the Liberal party, he was one of the most forward in proposing and demanding the constitution of 1849. He commenced his career as a public man in 1848, as a deputy of Turin in the Sardinian Parliament. He has always represented one of the colleges of the capital, and has, at the tribune, displayed all the qualities of a consummate orator and statesman.

In 1850, he entered into the Cabinet, taking the portfolio of agriculture and commerce, and inaugurated his system of commercial reforms. Under his administration, the Sardinian Parliament voted the abolition of differential duties in navigation and the customs. Numerous treaties with most of the great Powers were the consequences of this new legislation. In 1851, he proceeded to the revision of the customs tariff, which underwent successively a series of considerable reductions. In this manner, Sardinia entered boldly upon the system of free trade—a system which, at the present day, continues to be the basis of her commercial policy, and the results of which have proved beneficial.

M. de Cavour quitted the Ministry in 1852, and took an opportunity of visiting France and England, in which countries he received from various statesmen and eminent persons the most gratifying proofs of sympathy and personal esteem.

When, in the same year, Count Cavour was recalled to be chief adviser of the King of Sardinia, he was recognised as a man of comprehensive and statesmanlike views, eloquent in Parliament, fully aware of the blessings of constitutional and representative government, and ardent for the honour of his King and country. The principal objects of his government have been to consolidate constitutional monarchy, to maintain the independence of Sardinia against Rome, and to improve the financial condition of the country. The most important act of his foreign administration was to ally Sardinia with England and France against Russia. Count Cavour is associated with the Marquis Villamarina, Sardinian Ambassador at Paris.

The Marquis Pes de Villamarina, Envoy of Sardinia to Paris, was appointed Chargé d'Affaires at Florence, and towards the end of 1852 he was appointed to the position which he now occupies. His Excellency enjoys the utmost confidence of his Sovereign and the Government of Piedmont.

COUNT ORLOFF AND BARON BRUNOW.

Count Orloff was the intimate friend and confidential adviser of the late Czar, and he is well known to the statesmen and diplomatists of Europe. He belongs to an illustrious family, as families go in Russia; is about seventy years of age, but still brisk, healthy, and active; Aide-de-Camp General, General of Cavalry, Commander of Cavalry, Commander of the Military Household of the King, and Member of the Council of the Empire. He took part in almost all the wars which signalled the commencement of this century, was wounded at Austerlitz, and seven times at Borodino. He was a general when Nicholas mounted the throne, and commanded in that capacity the regiment of Horse Guards which in December, 1826, first hurried to suppress the *émée*. Count Orloff gave tokens that day of boundless courage and devotion, and from that moment dated his intimacy with the Emperor Nicholas.

In 1828 he commanded in Turkey the division of horse chasseurs. In 1829 he was named plenipotentiary, and signed the treaty of Adrianople. He was sent to the conferences concerning Belgium and the Netherlands; he invariably accompanied the Czar Nicholas on his visits to foreign Courts—to London, Olmutz, and Berlin. In 1845 he succeeded Count de Benckendorff as chief of the third section of the Private Chancellery of the Emperor, and of the gendarmerie of the Empire, the colonels of which, distributed over all the governments, have less a mission of police, properly so called, than a general inspection of all the administration of the country, and also of control over the governors as well as the governed. This post, full of trust, gave to Count Orloff free access at all hours of the day to the Emperor, and the right to speak to him of any and everything.

He is described as a man of quiet manners and moderate views, and to have disapproved of Menschikoff's mission and style of execution. The following remark is attributed to him:—"Menschikoff demanded much, to receive little; I demand little, to receive much." No Russian diplomatist could come to Paris more fully possessed of his master's confidence—more familiar with the policy of the Empire, or better qualified to meet the other Plenipotentiaries on equal terms.

Baron Brunow is a man remarkable for his consummate diplomatic talent. He is by birth a German, and less identified than Count Orloff with the traditions of the Russian empire. Indeed it was only in 1818, when the Congress at Aix-la-Chapelle was held, that he formed his official connection with the Court of the Czars. From that period, however, he has been incessantly engaged either at the Foreign Office at St. Petersburg, or on political missions. He has passed nearly forty years in a diplomatic career, in which he has acquired a European reputation. He was with Count Orloff at the negotiations of Adrianople. He then accompanied him to Constantinople as counsellor of the ambassador, then to Holland and England, and again to Constantinople. On returning from Turkey, in 1830, Baron Brunow remained attached to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as chief *redacteur*. He then attended Count Nesselrode to several congresses and diplomatic conferences. After remaining one year as minister at Stuttgart, he was sent on an extraordinary mission to

London, where he signed the treaties of 1840 and 1841. He remained there as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary until the rupture of diplomatic relations between England and Russia. In London, he was known during fourteen years for his rare capacities, his perfect manners, and the art with which he conciliated our ministers, without compromising the interests of his own Government.

"These two statesmen," says "Le Nord," "have been accustomed to labour together for nearly thirty years; and if we may judge of the success of the negotiations about to be held by the success of those in which they have already taken part, we cannot but entertain most favourable hopes of an early re-establishment of peace."

THE EARL OF CLARENDON AND LORD COWLEY.

Last, though not by any means least, on our list of Plenipotentiaries, is George Villiers, Earl of Clarendon, whose mature experience at this Conference will be aided by all the diplomatic skill and knowledge of the Tuileries possessed by Lord Cowley. This country has reason to be well satisfied with the choice of a statesman who has generally proved himself fully equal to his task; who is thoroughly versed in the diplomacy of the last few years; who, as has been truly said, avoided, with equal skill and resolution, the pitfalls spread for him by our unfortunate Plenipotentiary at the Congress of Vienna; and who unites to his other qualities the tact of a gentleman and the spirit of an Englishman. We have no doubt that at these negotiations, Lord Clarendon will cut a much better figure than he does in parliamentary debates.

As a cadet of the houses of Jersey and Hyde, the early initiation of George William Frederick Villiers as an attaché to the Embassy at St. Petersburg, from 1820 to 1823, gave him a complete acquaintance with those apparently trifling *minutiae* which go so far to make up the great total of diplomacy; while a subsequent experience as first Commissioner of Excise in Ireland, for ten years, from 1823 to 1833, afforded him a practical knowledge of statistical detail and official routine. The combination of knowledge and accomplishments attained by Mr. Villiers in these two careers, and the judgment displayed by him in bringing about the union of the two Excise Boards, recommended him to the Government for employment in the arrangement of a commercial treaty with France in 1831.

After he had been a Commissioner of Customs in Dublin, and an Ambassador at Madrid, he began his parliamentary career, when nearly 40, as a Member of the House of Lords. He has never, of course, become a debater; his manner is nervous and hesitating, his voice inadequate, and his oratorical displays altogether wanting in the muscle and vigour necessary in a great party chief. He is no match for men like Derby and Grey, or Lyndhurst and Brougham, who have taken part in the conflicts of the House of Commons, in its better, fiercer, and more earnest days. He is not an orator, but he is a man of the world, and knows perfectly what England expects of those whom she trusts with power. At the Conferences, he will find his address and power of insinuation more useful than an eloquent tongue or debative talent. He has, doubtless, his detractors. "Poor Lord Clarendon," some people say, "he is really to be the man for the Conferences. Conceive that feeble, thin, unready nature, in a committee resisting such men as Brunow, and Buol, and Persigny, or Walewski. His Lordship will be played with, compromised, squelched, and will return home utterly exploded. He will come home with a peace in his pocket, and will be hooted, as Bollingbroke was; and, not being Bollingbroke, will go down before the hooting." For our own part, we cannot help thinking, that those who treat the matter thus, have taken a very wrong measure of the intellect with which Nature has gifted this accomplished scion of the house of Villiers.

Lord Cowley, who was born in 1804, is a nephew of the late Duke of Wellington, and may be said to have been cradled in diplomacy—his father, the first peer of that title, having, as Sir H. Wellesley, distinguished himself at nearly every Court in Europe during the last great war. Lord Cowley commenced his official career in 1824, as an attaché to the Embassy at Vienna, and in 1829 was promoted to the Hague as paid attaché. From this period his promotion was regular, and proceeded with his diplomatic education and experience. In 1832 he became Secretary of Legation at Stuttgart, and in 1838 he occupied, at an important period, the more responsible position of Secretary of Embassy at the Ottoman Porte. During negotiations of some delicacy, in 1845, he was sent as Minister Plenipotentiary to Switzerland, whence, enlarging the sphere of his usefulness, he proceeded to Frankfurt; and, in 1851, during the anxious crisis of the resettlement of the tranquillity of Germany, acted as Minister Plenipotentiary to the Germanic Confederation. With the closer approximation of the interests of the Courts of France and England, the tact and experience of Lord Cowley were considered to designate his Lordship as best fitted for the distinguished position of Ambassador to the Imperial Court of France, and in 1852 he succeeded Lord Normanby in that high position. The association of Lord Cowley with Lord Clarendon, will tend to facilitate the proper settlement and co-ordination of many arrangements which must necessarily succeed any agreement upon the great points under discussion.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE.

Aali Pacha, the Turkish Plenipotentiary at the Congress, is accompanied by Aff Bey, Chancellor of the Sublime Porte; Nourreddin Bey, First Dragoman of the Imperial Divan; Arify Bey, First Secretary; and Djelal Bey and Coslaki-Adosides, Second Secretaries.

The Russian envoys, Count Orloff and Baron Brunow, have again received special instructions, it is believed, to be as conciliatory as is consistent with their unfortunate position. They have attempted to adduce as a proof of this disposition, the order to cease the works in the shipbuilding yard at Nicolaieff, and the transfer from that port to Cronstadt of the naval school. Both of the Russian diplomatists are said to be as little like Menschikoff as possible. They appear to be all courtesies.

At the first meeting of the Plenipotentiaries, which was held on Monday, an Armistice was signed by the representatives of the Powers, to be in force till the 31st of March, and to apply only to the Land Forces.

Count Walewski gave a grand banquet to the Plenipotentiaries, on Monday evening; and afterwards the magnificent saloons of the Minister for Foreign Affairs were thrown open, and from 600 to 800 of the *élite* of what Parisian society is now, filled them, and the noble room in which the twelve diplomatists accredited to the Congress meet, namely, the Salons des Ambassadeurs, was thrown freely open like the rest.

"TIMES SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE."—W. H. Russell, LL.D., who has recently received his diploma from Trinity College, Dublin, and who came to England at Christmas, took his departure for the Crimea on Saturday. This seems to indicate that a continuance of the war is not improbable.

A FORTUNATE MEETING.—An act of great heroism was performed at Malta a week or two since, by the Rev. Mr. Robinson, chaplain to the forces. A Mr. and Mrs. Evans, with their son, a fine boy about eight years old, then staying there, on their return from Upper Egypt, were crossing in a boat from Valetta to Vittoriosa, when the little fellow, in endeavouring to catch hold of a piece of stick, overbalanced himself, and instantly sank before the eyes of his parents. Mr. Robinson, who was following in another boat, seeing what had occurred, immediately jumped into the sea, and succeeded in bringing him, apparently dead, into his boat. It was very rough and windy, and Mr. Robinson was completely exhausted. Mr. Evans, feeling much gratified for what the Rev. Gentleman had done, sent him a check for £500, which was at once returned. The romantic part of the story is, that the two gentlemen who so unexpectedly became acquainted, are members of branches of the same family, but, in consequence of differences which took place many years ago, they had not seen each other since their boyhood, and each was ignorant of the other's residence in the island until this singular introduction.

A FUGITIVE SLAVE IN ENGLAND.—A few days since a female slave was brought, by the American ship *Asterion*, into Liverpool, under the following circumstances:—While the ship was loading at New Orleans, the poor creature made her escape, and her master offered a reward of 500 dollars to any person who would restore her "property." The police made strict search throughout the city, and on board the vessels in the harbour, but the slave eluded their vigilance, and found a friend in the ship's boatswain, who secretly conveyed her on board, and kept her in his berth during the whole of the passage, which occupied 25 days. A remarkable fact is, that with the exception of the boatswain who liberated her, her presence in the ship was unknown to all on board, including the captain. She is a mulatto, 20 or 23 years of age.

THE GOVERNOR OF MALTA has granted a pardon to Lieut. Montgomery, of the 7th Fusiliers, lately tried for misbehaviour in the cathedral at Citta Vecchia; but Lieut. Hodson, R.A., has not been included in this act of clemency.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We have received a note from Mr. Hamer, who ascended Snowden on the 1st of the Malvern hills, in which he seeks to impugn the statements contained in the letter by Mr. Duffy, which we published a week or two ago. In reply we observe that we do not doubt Mr. Hamer's statement that he ascended the summit of the Malvern Hills, on the night in question; but we much doubt that this light was from the Malvern bonfire.

ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 1856.

AMERICA IN DIFFICULTIES.

SOME members of the American Senate have been blustering very loudly of late about the prospects of a war with England, the ease with which the Canadas could be annexed by the States, and the probability that in a few years England will cease to possess an inch of American ground. The truth is, however, that far from being entitled to assume this lofty tone, American statesmen, if they were wise, ought to be extremely anxious about the imminent perils with which their country is threatened from within, and, instead of annexing Canada, they will have enough to do to preserve the Union itself from disruption. The advice brought by the *Atlantic* on Sunday shows that the state of affairs in Kansas is ripening into civil war. The discord which has led to bloodshed in Kansas, is not one of merely local importance, like a Preston strike, or a Rebecca riot in this country. It arises out of the question which has divided the population of the states into two hostile camps—the great slavery question. The discussion of the controversy long raging between the slavery and the anti-slavery parties in America, has quitted the arena of platforms, legislatures, and congresses, and has entered that of armed strife. So little have American politics been studied in this country, especially during the all-absorbing war in the East, that this, their new phase, is probably unintelligible to many of our readers; and it may be asensible, therefore, to trace succinctly at the present moment the origin of what perhaps by this time deserves to be called "the civil war in Kansas."

Kansas, in American phrase, is termed a "territory," that is, a state in process of formation, entitled to a local legislature of its own, and to be formally represented in Congress, as soon as its population has reached a certain point. When Kansas was erected into a territory, it was provided that the settlement of the question whether slavery was to be allowed within its borders should be left to the decision of its first legislature. Obviously, the decision of Kansas was one of great importance, not only to itself, but to the Union, since, when it becomes a State, its influence in Congress would be thrown into the scale in favour of one or other of the two great and nicely-balanced political sections, the slavery and the anti-slavery parties. Both parties strained every nerve to secure the numerical preponderance of their adherents, and the result was the movement new in American history—political migration. From the slave states, slavery settlers made for Kansas; in the free states, Kansas Emigration Societies were formed, and settlers were equipped for, and forwarded to, the "debateable land," with a view to agricultural profit, but to obtain a political triumph. The slavery party, in this singular contest, had, however, the great advantage, that the Kansas territory was separated by a vast distance from the wealthy and populous free states of the east, and was contiguous to the slave state of Missouri, inhabited by a wild and fierce population. The Missourians were determined that Kansas should be one of themselves, and were exasperated by the fact that the majority of actual settlers was evidently averse to slavery. When the time came for the election of the first legislature in Kansas, the Missourians formed an organisation of "border ruffians" (as they are called by their opponents), who, pouncing across the boundaries, armed and desperate, forced the returning officers to declare their candidates duly elected. Since then, Kansas has been in a state of chronic strife, which was being precipitated into civil war by the approach of the yearly elections. The Missourians have declared a crusade against the Kansas free-soilers, and have encamped with military organisation in its territory. Previously, several lives had been lost in the frequent conflicts between the two parties. But lately, a leader of the free-soilers, a captive and unarmed, was butchered by the Missourians under circumstances of such atrocity, that a collision on the largest scale was inevitable. President PIERCE, who acquiesced at first with the slavery party, now recoils at the consequences of his own policy, and invokes the intervention of Congress. The anti-slavery party throughout the Union are elated by the election of their candidate, Mr. BANKS, to the Speakership of the House of Representatives, the first and most decided of their political triumphs. The South is sullen, vindictive, and resolute. How the crisis may terminate it is impossible to say; but certainly it is the height of folly for American politicians to talk of provoking a war with England, unprovided as America is with a fleet, and unprotected as are her vast commerce and enormous seaboard.

Happily for the reputation of England, our Government is not taking advantage of the internal and external weakness of the United States, to bully or coerce, and the tone of our statesmen is as conciliatory as that of the American Senate is the opposite. The English Government has spontaneously offered to refer to arbitration the far most important of the matters in dispute—the interpretation of the CLAYTON-BULWER treaty. What are the members of the Peace Society and peace party about that they do not raise their voices to urge the American Government to accept their own darling project for the prevention of war? Are they silent because they are determined to be always in opposition, always to pronounce their own country in the wrong, even when it realises in season schemes which they are never wearied of recommending out of season?

THE RIGHTS OF THE BREECHES POCKET.

AT the half-yearly general meeting of the shareholders in the Great Northern Railway, on Saturday last, a resolution was moved by the chairman, Mr. Denison, M.P. for the West Riding of Yorkshire, to authorise the directors to expend the sum of £200 annually in remunerating a clergyman for giving spiritual instruction to the company's servants at Doncaster. This was, so far as we see, a proper resolution; and one which persons holding different religious opinions, might, we think, have strained a point to agree to, although it was understood the clergyman in question would be selected from the Established Church. It could hardly be expected that more than one clergyman would be provided for so small a congregation, and it seems to us far preferable that the majority should experience the benefit of a spiritual instructor, rather than that all should go without. Some gentlemen, however, thought otherwise; and, as they expressed it, opposed the resolution, from a sense of religious duty; and we are bound to say that there was nothing in their observations for the most captious to find fault with. Mr. Denison, however, took one of the dissentient shareholders to task, after the following fashion:—

"Mr. Gideler also objected to the vote; but I can tell him and this meeting, that this grant of £200, if assented to, would not affect his pocket to the extent of one farthing; for he is not an A shareholder, nor even a common stockholder; he is nothing but a preference-holder. (Cries of oh, and hear.) I will say that it is not fair in a gentleman who holds nothing but preference stock to come here and object to a motion for giving religious instruction to the children of the company's servants—a motion which cannot possibly affect him one way or the other. I tell the Hon. Proprietor, and in doing so, I will run all risks of offending him, that it is not a creditable position for any gentleman to take at a public meeting. For the gentleman who sits beside him I have infinitely more respect. His pocket may be affected, though, I believe, not to the extent of a farthing a share, and he has a right to object, and ought to object, if he thinks proper. But I do protest against the unfairness of a gentleman coming here and opposing a motion of this sort, which cannot by possibility, or in the most distant manner, affect him."

We must say, that in the whole course of our experience we never before heard such strange doctrines broached. Our readers need hardly be reminded, that any shareholder has a perfect right to object to any resolution that may be brought forward by a board of directors without being bullied by the chairman of the meeting for so doing. But putting this aside, what are we to think of Mr. Denison's deliberately expressed opinion, that, because the shareholder's pocket was not likely to be affected by the proposed resolution, therefore his voice should be silent; while to him whose interests might be affected to the extent of less than a farthing a share, not merely the full privilege of objection is accorded by the chairman, but the latter actually states that the shareholder ought to avail himself of this privilege! This is, altogether, such a bare-faced enunciation of the sovereign rights of the breeches pocket, such a shameless exaltation of them above the rights of conscience and of free discussion, that we must say, were we electors of the West Riding of Yorkshire, we should hesitate considerably before we conferred our suffrages on a man whose code of morals smacks so much more of the commercial—indeed, we may say of the mercenary—than of the divine.

WEEKLY OBITUARY.

TURNER, C. W., Esq.—On the 28th ult., at Carthage, Spain, died, aged 37, Charles Walsingham Turner, Esq., British Consul for that city. He was the eldest son of the late Edmund Turner, Esq., of Poling House, and of Turo, Cornwall (who was M.P. for that Borough from 1847 till his death in January, 1849), by the eldest daughter of Reuben Mayne, Esq., of the same county. The deceased gentleman, who was an active and efficient public servant, was grandson of his uncle, Mr. Charles Walsingham Turner, who, after entering military service of the East India Company at an early age, distinguished himself in the East not less as a scholar than as a soldier, and fell at Vizagapatnam.

USSHER, Mrs.—On February the 7th, at Mount Ussher, Monkstown, county of Dublin, died Margaret, sister of the late Admiral Sir Thomas Ussher, K.C.B. The deceased lady was daughter of the Rev. Dr. Ussher, Astronomer Royal of Ireland, and a descendant of the celebrated Archbishop of Armagh. The first ancestor of the family went over to Ireland with King John; his original name was Neville, but he exchanged it for one expressive of the office which he held under his sovereign. The late Sir Thomas Ussher served in the navy in almost every part of the world, and commanded the Undaunted in 1816, when that ship conveyed the late Emperor Napoleon to St. Helena.

OUTRAM, Sir B. F.—Sir Benjamin Foulkes Outram, C.B., F.R.S., who died on the 16th ultimo at Brighton, was a son of the late Captain Outram of Kilham, Yorkshire. He was born about the year 1780, and married in 1811 a daughter of William Seales, Esq., and widow of Captain Richard Corne, R.N., but was left a widower in 1852. He was educated at the University of Edinburgh, where he graduated M.D. in 1809, and afterwards became a member of the College of Physicians. He entered the medical department of the naval service in 1794, in which he gradually rose till he became inspector of fleets and hospitals in 1811. He served under several distinguished officers during the war with France, and had received the war medal with clasps for brilliant actions in the Nile, Bonadira, Superb, &c.

LITTLE, Sir J. G.—Feb. 14, at Bigadon, Devon, in his 73rd year, died Lieut.-Gen. Sir John Hunter Little, G.C.B., of the Hon. East India Company's Service, colonel of the 36th Regiment of Bengal native infantry, and late deputy-governor of Bengal. Sir John Little had distinguished himself as an officer so far back as the years 1801-5, when he served under the late Lord Lake in his Indian campaigns. Subsequently, in 1811, he was employed in the expedition against the island of Java, and continued upon the staff of his commanding officer till 1824. He rose gradually through the various steps of promotion till he became Lieut.-General in 1851; he had previously commanded a division of the Company's forces at the battle of Moodkee in Dec., 1845, and had been appointed in 1847 a provisional member of the Council in India. Two years later he became president of that Council and deputy-governor of Bengal, but resigned those posts a year or two since, on his return to England. The Kent Indianan, in which he sailed for Madras, upon entering the service in 1800, was captured by a French privateer, but the subject of our memoir contrived to escape, and reach his destination in safety. He was the son of an East India Director, and married in 1827 the only daughter of the late Captain Henry Stewart, whose father unsuccessfully claimed the earldom of Orkney.

BRADHAM, J.—On Sunday, Feb. 17, in his 82nd year, died the celebrated John Bradham, a singer whose name has been known for nearly the last 70 years. He was of Jewish descent, and afforded a remarkable instance of the great aptitude of the Jewish race for music. Born in 1771, or, as some say, in 1773, he made his debut in 1787, under Lioni, at the Royal Theatre, while still a child; and attracted the notice of the late Mr. Abraham Goldsmid, who took him to Bath, and placed him under the tuition of Rauzzini, then director of the ancient concerts in that city. He remained three years under Rauzzini's tuition, of which he always spoke most gratefully. In 1798, he returned to London, and made his appearance in that year, in Storace's opera of "Malmoud," and subsequently obtained engagements at the Italian Opera House. Here his great reputation was increased by his magnificent delivery of "Deeper, and Deeper Still," in Handel's "Jephthah." Hoping, however, to rise still higher in his profession, he proceeded next year to Italy, to complete his musical education, and appeared in public at Florence, Milan, and Genoa. At the last named place he studied composition under Isola. In 1801 he returned to England with his reputation at its zenith, and from that day to the present time he has been almost unrivalled as a favourite of the public. Some twenty years since, having amassed a large fortune, he built the St. James's Theatre, and opened it as an Opera House. But the speculation failed; and when more than 60 years of age, he was obliged to go over to America, and resume his professional engagements for his bread. Here again, however, success attended him, and his latter years were passed, if not in affluence, yet in competence, ease, and comfort. He married, and had the comfort of seeing his children all comfortably and respectfully settled in life. One of his daughters was married some years since to the late Earl of Waldegrave, and is now the wife of Mr. G. Harcourt, of Nuneham, M.P. for Oxfordshire, the eldest son of the late Archbishop of York. Bradham enjoyed to the last a green and hearty old age, made comfortable by the filial duty of his daughter. Within a few weeks of his death he was seen by us in Exeter Hall, enjoying Jenny Lind's singing in "Elijah," with the fresh feeling and buoyant spirits of a young man.

GRAY, Sir J.—Last week, at his seat, Morwick, in Northumberland, died Gen. Sir John Grey, who for some time was Commander-in-Chief at Bombay, and whose grandfather was a brother of the first Earl Grey.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN held a Privy Council at three o'clock on Monday afternoon, at Buckingham Palace; and afterwards gave audiences to Viscount Palmerston, Earl Granville, and Lord Pannure.

THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH, accompanied by General Niel, honoured the Opera Comique with his presence on Saturday last, to witness the latest representation of "Manon Lescaut," the music by Auber.

SIR HENRY ELLIS has resigned his post as principal librarian to the British Museum.

M. YVON, painter of the "Retreat of Marshal Ney from Russia," has been commissioned by the French Minister of State to go to the Crimea, to make studies for a grand picture of the taking of the Malakhoff.

MR. SOMERS, who represented Sligo from 1835 to 1853, is again a candidate in the Liberal interest for that borough, to supply the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Sadler.

THE STATE APARTMENTS at Windsor Castle were re-opened to the public on Monday, the 25th instant.

GENERAL SIR GEORGE SCOVELL will retire from the Governorship of the Military College at Sandhurst on the 31st of March.

SIR GILBERT HEATHCOTE, BART., has been elevated to the peerage, with the title of Baron Aveland of Aveland, in the county of Lincoln.

THE RUSSIAN TROPHIES in Woolwich Arsenal, lately inspected by her Majesty, are now open to public view by order of the Horse Guards.

SOLDIERS who have lost a limb are in future to be provided with an artificial arm or leg of the best construction at the public expense.

LORD CAMPBELL, who has strenuously maintained in the House of Lords that the Crown has not the power to create a life peer, thus writes in his "Lives of the Lord Chancellors":—"The Crown certainly might grant a peerage for life; and, in some instances, this prerogative might be usefully exercised."

CHARLES BROADFOOT WESTON, against whom sentence of death was recorded for the murder of Mr. Waugh, has had the Royal mercy extended to him on condition that he be kept in penal servitude for his natural life.

MR. ROEBUCK, it is rumoured, intends to submit to the House of Commons a motion relative to the question of "Life Peerages."

M. JALAY has been elected to the seat in the Academy of the Fine Arts, which was vacant by the death of M. David (d'Angers).

LORD SEATON will preside over the military commission just appointed to inquire into the allegations in the Crimean report.

A TELEGRAPHIC DESPATCH from Copenhagen states that the Great Belt is free from ice.

AALI PACHA, the Turkish Plenipotentiary, has been charged by the Sultan to transmit to the Empress Eugenie and Queen Victoria two diadems in brilliants.

A WOMAN, of Nantysyddion, named Hughes, was last week safely delivered of four children—three girls and one boy—all of whom, with the mother, are doing well.

THE QUEEN has created the Earl of Kenmare, in the peerage of Ireland, a baron of the United Kingdom, by the title of Baron Kenmare of Castle Ross, in the county of Kerry.

NEARLY 900 MEN belonging to the Hampshire Militia, have volunteered into the Line.

MR. GLYN, the member for Kendal, has no fewer than four sons, says the "Westmoreland Gazette," serving their country in the Crimea.

THE SULTAN, besides several horses, has sent to the Emperor Napoleon a sabre, mounted with precious stones.

THE ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION of ANTWERP have elected Count de Chreptovitz, Minister of Russia at Brussels, an honorary member.

COUNT MEDERM will, it is said, in case of peace being concluded, be Russian Minister in London, and Baron Brunow at Paris; and Count Colloredo's mission at this Court is also spoken of as about to terminate shortly.

GENERAL WILLIAMS being, by recent accounts, re-established in health, was shortly to leave Tiflis for Moscow.

PRINCE ALBERT has presented Mr. Spence Bate, of Plymouth, with a copy of the "Natural History of Decidie," the parish in which Balmoral is situated.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF VIENNA, on the proposition of the Municipal Council, has declared against the erection of a monument in honour of Mozart in a church in that capital.

THE LORD MAYOR has issued cards of invitation for a dinner at the Mansion House, to meet Mr. Buchanan, the American Minister, previous to his departure for the United States.

M. UNGER, professor at the Vienna University, well known to students of botany and geology, has been denounced by the Vienna "Church Gazette," as bringing forward doctrines which do not agree with the Scriptures.

MADAME JENNY LIND GOLDSCHMIDT gave concerts at Birmingham on Wednesday and Thursday, and the receipts on the two evenings amounted to £2,100.

THE emancipation of the Wallachian serfs, 70,000 in number, has been decided on; and their proprietors will receive an indemnification for each of them from the State.

THE SPEAKER of the House of Commons will hold his first lever this evening, at half-past 10 o'clock.

THE VIENNA BURGHER GUARD (not National Guard) is again to be formed, but it will have no artillery.

M. DE LAMARTINE, having lost a very considerable sum by speculations in corn, is striving to repair his shattered fortunes by establishing a new journal, and a course of lectures.

THE MEMBERS of the Stamford Hill Cricket Club entertained their friends (to the number of three or four hundred) at a grand ball at the London Tavern, one evening this week.

MADAME ALLAN, an eminent French actress, is dead.

THE 1ST LANARKSHIRE MILITIA, stationed at Hamilton, being, last week, offered the opportunity of volunteering, 150 men stepped out of the ranks, and declared their readiness to join the Line.

M. DE GIRARDIN is said to be about to re-issue his well-known essay entitled "Peace," in which he calls for the immediate destruction of Gibraltar.

THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS was, on the 21st of January, proclaimed in Moldavia, and laws for its regulation published.

COUNT DE MORNY, according to the fashionable gossip of Paris, is about to marry Miss Hutton, a rich American lady.

THE COMMITTEE for removing the civil disabilities of the Jews held a meeting on Tuesday at the London Tavern, under the presidency of Mr. Prescott.

SEVERAL CUSTOM-HOUSE OFFICERS in Bristol have been respectively dismissed, suspended, and degraded for culpability arising out of late robberies of bonded stores.

MR. PEAKE, COLONEL SLEIGH, AND MR. INGRAM, are candidates for the representation of Boston.

THE MORTAL REMAINS of the Duke of Norfolk were consigned to the family vault, at Arundel, on Tuesday morning, with heraldic honours.

M. LAMARTINE is said to be revising for the press a new volume of poems, entitled "Des Illusions."

THE TOWN COUNCIL of SOUTHAMPTON have resolved to petition the Lords of the Treasury to make Southampton a first-class port.

THE REV. H. MELVILLE, the far-famed pulpit orator, and Principal of Haileybury, has accepted the Canonry at St. Paul's, vacant by the preferment of the Hon. and Rev. H. M. Villiers to the bishopric of Carlisle.

THE "CONSTITUTIONNEL" says that the decorations of the Louvre has occupied more than 1,600 sculptors.

THE THEATRE OF RENNES, built in 1834, at a cost of 600,000*fr.*, has been completely destroyed by fire.

MR. DUNLOP AND MR. KINNAIRD have prepared a bill, which makes further provision for rendering reformatory and industrial schools in Scotland more available for the benefit of vagrant children.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE AND THE LORD-ADVOCATE, it is said, decline to be nominated for the Rectorship of Marischal College, Aberdeen.

LORD BROUGHAM presided at the annual meeting of the Law Amendment Society, on Saturday last, when Lord Stanley, Mr. Napier, M.P., Sir J. Pakington, Sir F. Kelly, and Mr. Adderley, M.P., took part in the proceedings.

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF MODENA have gone to Venice on a visit to the Count de Chambord.

MRS. ELDRIDGE (Fanny Fern) was lately married to Mr. Parton, of New York, who is the author of a recently-published "Life of Horace Greeley."

M. LEVERIER states that he is firmly persuaded that a great number of small planets are situated between Mars and Jupiter, and that before 1860 nearly 100 will certainly be discovered.

HANNAH BRUMWELL was brought, on Tuesday, before the Marlborough Street Court for final examination, charged with having drowned her child in the Serpentine, and depositions having been taken, the witnesses were bound over to prosecute.

HOTEL OF THE RUSSIAN EMBASSY, PARIS.

The official residence (which is represented in the accompanying engraving) of the Ambassador of Russia at the Court of the Tuileries, has, for reasons which are pretty apparent, been for some time without a tenant. The presence in the hotel, therefore, of a Russian envoy, has naturally excited an extraordinary degree of curiosity among the Parisians, and is not without interest even this side of the Channel.

When it was known that Baron Brunow had actually made his appearance, there was a great rush to the place, but those who went were quite disappointed, as the wary and experienced diplomatist, having no inclination to be a spectacle, took care not to be visible.

The well-known hotel of the Russian Embassy is situated in the Faubourg St. Honoré, where the principal diplomatic residences are to be seen, with beautiful gardens in their rear, and beyond these, the Champs Elysées.

The Russians and their friends have been meeting at the Princess Lieven's, a lady who has been identified with many important diplomatic intrigues. M. Brunow has been frequently employing the telegraph, with a view, it is said, of obtaining answers to questions which he learned would be mooted at the Congress. The Russian Envoy found the French Emperor and his advisers by no means so pacific as was anticipated from the reports which had reached St. Petersburg from Vienna, and the confidence of the Russo-German party has been somewhat shaken.

Considerable sensation has been excited by the anti-English propaganda which Russian ladies of the highest rank are said to be carrying on, hitherto with more activity and energy than success. It is stated that their intrigues occupy an inconsiderable share of the attention of the French Government. First on the list comes the Princess Lieven, the reputed wife of M. Guizot. Next in importance is the Baroness de Seebach, daughter of Count Nesselrode. This lady has for a political correspondent at St. Petersburg Madame Zografos (whose maiden designation was Princess Soutza), the wife of the Greek Ambassador. The Princess and Baroness have under their immediate orders an experienced staff of feminine intriguers, viz.:—Madame Kalergi, a niece of

Nesselrode; Madame Marazzi, a Russian lady of Greek origin, possessing large property at Odessa; Madame Meyendorf, the wife of the Russian Envoy at Berlin; the Princess Ypsilante, a Greek phanariot, under Russian protection, and two ladies of the Obreskof family—one of whom is married to a French Count, and the other of whom is the wife of Prince Jean Soutza, a Greek attaché at St. Petersburg.

Count Orloff arrived at Paris on the evening of Thursday, the 21st ult.



THE HOTEL OF THE RUSSIAN EMBASSY AT PARIS.

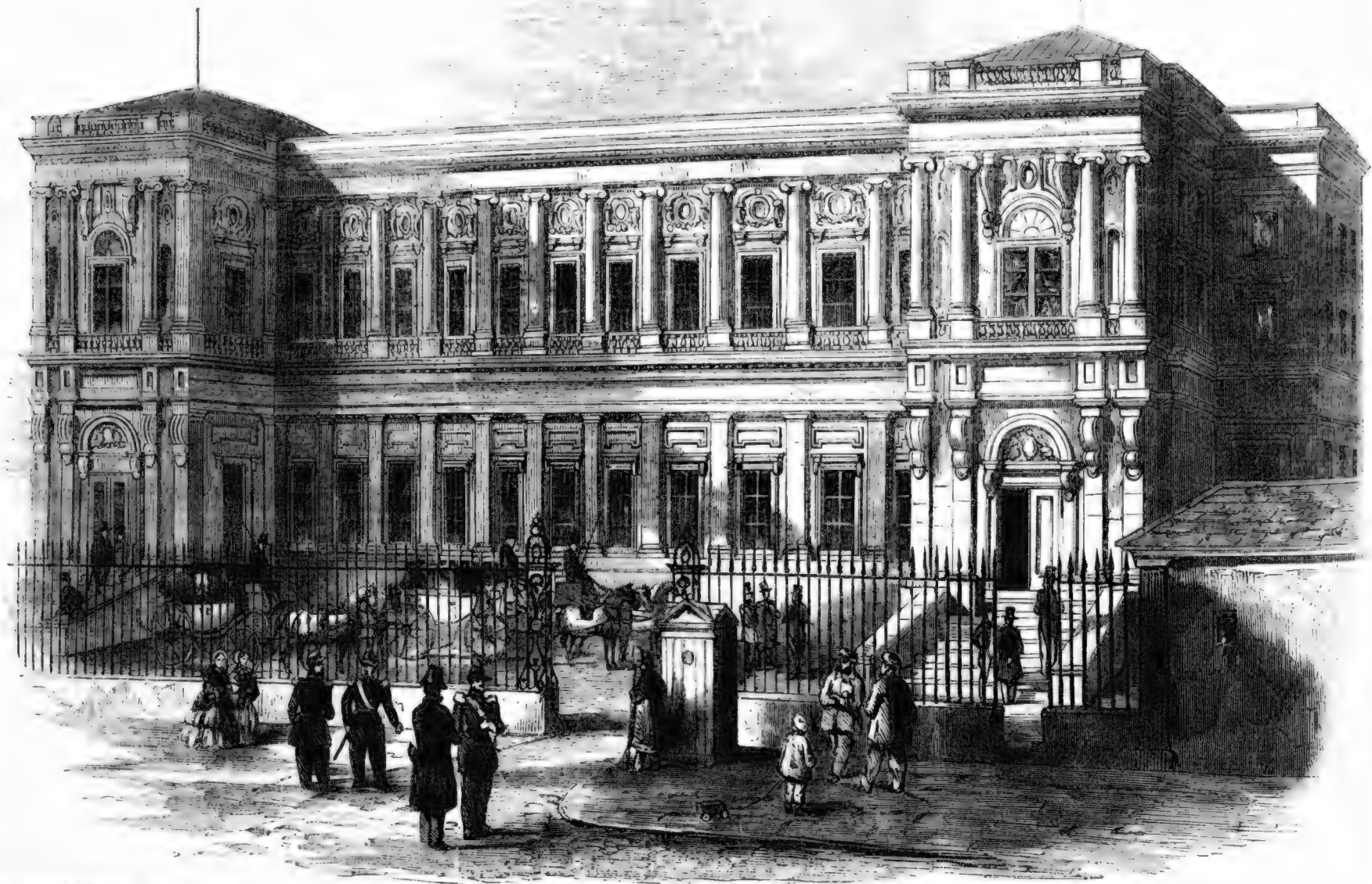
THE FOREIGN OFFICE PARIS.

On the Quai d'Orsay, near the Palace of the President of the Legislative body, stands the Hotel of the Minister for Foreign Affairs. The first stone of the edifice, which is decidedly an ornament to the locality where it is situated, was laid in 1845, by a less eminent person than when approaching the crisis of its fate. The expense of its erection was five millions of francs, which the nation paid under various forms of Government; and the transaction of business commenced within its walls in the autumn of 1853, when the Bonaparte dynasty had been restored, and Louis Napoleon had ascended the throne. The principal front, as we learn from "L'Annuaire's Paris Guide," consists of two pavilions, connected by an intermediate body, composed of a ground floor and an upper story. One of these is of the Doric order of architecture; the other of the Ionic order. The windows have small conies, and are surrounded by medallions, the fields of which are of gray marble. An uninterrupted balustrade runs along the roof; the whole façade is profusely sculptured. The western pavilion is connected by a terrace with a somewhat plainer building, which reaches to the Rue de Université; an elegant iron railing, with two gateways, encloses a spacious court, with flower-beds in front of the building; and on the right and left there are entrances ascended by steps.

FASHIONS FOR MARCH

In out-door costume, dresses of silk of dark hues are very generally worn. The skirts are either quite plain or have two or three broad flounces, edged with rows of velvet. The favourite colours for these dresses are dark green, blue, and brown. Cloaks of black, or brown, or gray cloth, are those most frequently adopted in ordinary out-door costume. The circular shape is still in favour, and rows of braid or velvet continue to be the most fashionable trimming. Many small cloaks of black and coloured velvet are in preparation, and it is expected that they will be much worn as the spring advances.

For bonnets, velvet, either black or coloured, is this season a favourite material. Many bonnets are made of velvet of two colours, viz., green and black or blue and black. They are trimmed on the outside with



THE HOTEL OF THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AT PARIS, WHERE THE PEACE CONFERENCES ARE BEING HELD.



FASHIONS FOR MARCH—EVENING DRESSES.

black lace and bows of ribbon or small plumes of feathers, the under trimming being invariably white blonde and flowers. Bonnets of various descriptions of coloured fancy straw are very fashionable. They are usually trimmed with rows of black or coloured velvet, and with bows made of ribbon and velvet tastefully combined together.

Some of the dresses worn at the balls recently given in Paris have been remarkably elegant. On one of these occasions, Lady C. wore a much admired dress of cerulean blue tulle, with three skirts. Each skirt was edged with blue marabout trimming, and above it was a design wrought in small Venetian pearls, consisting of flowers and foliage; the former in pearls, and the latter formed of blue marabout. The effect was indescrib-

ably beautiful. Her Ladyship's head-dress consisted of blue marabout, pearls, and diamonds. The dress worn by the Duchess d'O. at the same ball was of gold-colour tulle illusion. It had two shirts edged with broad bouillonné trimming, in which were disposed at intervals rosettes of fine gold pasamenterie; each rosette having a cluster of coral beads for its centre. The corsage was ornamented in corresponding style.

The head-dress was coral and gold filagree, with bouquets of jonquil at each side.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ILLUSTRATIONS.

Figure 1.—(Dress for the Opera or Theatre).—Robe of clear white muslin. The skirt has three broad flounces, scalloped at the edges and

ornamented with needlework in a rich open pattern. The corsage (not shown in the engraving) is half high, and ornamented with bretelles (not shown in the engraving) of gros-de-Naples ribbon, pink figured with white. The bretelles are fastened at the point in front of the waist, in a bow, and long flowing ends. The short sleeves are formed of three frills, worked to correspond with the flounces, and ornamented with bows of pink ribbon. The cloak (of a small circular form) is made of black guipure, and lined with pink silk. The trimming consists of a broad row of guipure lace, set on full. Round the neck of the cloak, a row of guipure lace forms a sort of turned down collar, and under it is fixed a bow of pink ribbon, the long ends hanging down behind. The hair is simply adorned with a large bouquet of roses and foliage, forming a cache-peigne at the back of the head. Fan of carved sandal wood inlaid with gold.

Figure 2.—(Young Lady's Ball Costume).—Dress of white tulle illusion over a slip of white silk. The dress has three skirts, each edged with a bouillonné, on which are fixed at regular intervals small bouquets of fuchsias. Bouquets of the same kind ornament the sleeves and the corsage. The latter is draped and pointed in front. The hair is arranged in full bandeaux, and ornamented with bouquets of fuchsias.

Figure 3.—(Evening Dress).—Robe of straw-colour gaze de Chine, with three skirts, each trimmed with five rows of narrow white marabout fringe. The same trimming is employed on the corsage and short sleeves, which are edged with narrow vandyked lace. The hair is arranged in double bandeaux, and the coiffure consists of a wreath and bouquets of narcissus. Bracelets of topaz and ruby. A Chinese fan.

THE LEAF-INSECT.

OUR attention has been called to the peculiarities of the Leaf-Insect, by the publication in the last number of the "Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal," of an interesting paper recently read before the Royal Physical Society, Edinburgh. The leading facts connected with the introduction of the insect to this country, and the popularity it has attained in the "Modern Athens," are so well told by Mr. Murray, the author of the paper referred to, that we prefer giving them in his own words:—

"A living specimen of one of the species of leaf-insect has, for nearly eighteen months, been an inmate of the hothouses; and the curiosity of the public to see this interesting animal had latterly become so engrossing, that Mr. M'Nab, the curator of the Gardens, to whose care and judicious management the prolonged life of the insect is entirely due, found it necessary, for the health of the insect itself, to forbid its being shown on more than four days in the week.

"For the greatest period of its life, it so exactly resembled the leaf on which it fed, that when visitors were shown it, they usually, after looking carefully over the plant for a minute or two, declared that they could see no insect. It had then to be more minutely pointed out to them; and although seeing is notoriously said to be believing, it looked so absolutely the same as the leaves among which it rested, that this test rarely satisfied them, and nothing would convince them that there was a real live insect there, but the test of touch. It had to be stirred up to make it move, or still more commonly was taken off the plant, and made to crawl on the finger of the attendant."

It appears that the public owe the gratification of seeing this curious insect, in its living state, to Mrs. Blackwood, the accomplished wife of Major Blackwood, of the Hon. East India Company's Service. As some of our readers are no doubt aware, the genus to which the leaf-insect belongs, is considered by naturalists to be peculiar to the Eastern world; The specimen here engraved comes from Silhet and the mountainous district of India adjoining Assam. After various unsuccessful attempts to introduce it into this country in a live state, Mrs. Blackwood adopted the following expedient. On her return from India, she got a parcel of eggs transmitted to her by post, but as they had not come out at the period she expected, she left them behind on going out of town (despaired of as regards hatching, but preserved as specimens), when to her mingled pleasure and regret on her return, she found that many of them had come out and died in the box in which she left them. Encouraged by this result, she again got a supply of eggs in the spring of 1854, and keeping a more careful watch upon them, she had the pleasure to find a pair come out on the 9th and 10th of May; one or two followed every week till the end of May, when a week or so of cold weather occurred, during which no more came out; but when fine weather again returned in the beginning of June, they again began to come out in greater numbers.

On the young insect being hatched, considerable difficulty was felt about its food. The first thing thought of was the leaves of the guava tree, on which it feeds in India, but they did not suit; either because the leaves were plucked, or because some time must elapse after its eclosion before the insect begins to feed. It was ultimately found that the common myrtle suited it best; and the specimen here represented, never sought to leave the plant on which it was placed till it was full grown, and furnished with wings.

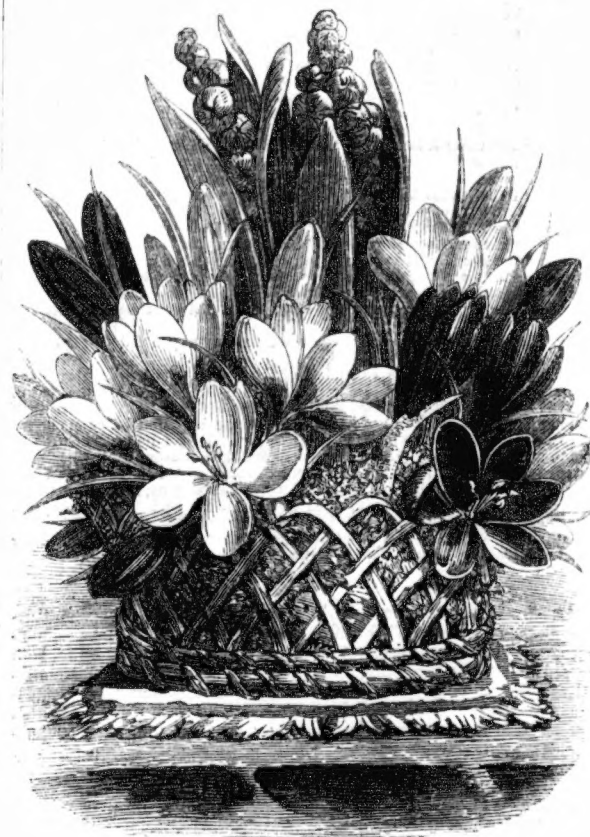
Of the specimens illustrated in our engraving, the one represented with its wings outspread is the male, the other the female.

WINDOW GARDENING, AND THE CULTIVATION OF PLANTS IN ROOMS.—NO. 1.

THE gleams of warm, cheering sunshine, after the cold east winds, are already developing the buds of green along the hedge-rows; and primroses, and even violets, are beginning to peep in sheltered nooks on banks having a southern aspect. It is time, therefore, for those who have a



THE PHYLLIUM SCYTHE, OR LEAF INSECT.



VASE OF CROCUSES.

aste for flowers, to furnish their rooms with samples of the beautiful vegetation that is bursting into new life out of doors.

Nothing is more cheering and beautiful at a drawing-room window at this season of the year than a cluster of crocuses mingling their petals of purple and gold, or a group of crimson hepaticas, or of the delicate snow-drop. But much as we delight in the approach of spring, in such glimpses of nature as a group of crocuses or snowdrops can afford us, we cannot say that we admire these favourite flowers when seen issuing from symmetrical apertures in a china hedgehog or a delf beehive. It is painful to contemplate them when they are reduced to such artificial contrivances. A far more agreeable effect is gained by a much simpler arrangement. If the reader refers to the illustration on the previous page, he will note that the flowers issue from a tuft of rich moss, confined within a slight green basket-work, as from a natural bank. Those who have neglected to prepare a supply of spring flowers for their tables and windows by planting their hyacinth bulbs and crocus corns in November, can now repair the omission at most of the suburban nurseries, where they will find a stock of spring-flowering bulbs just in a fit state of growth to remove to their drawing-rooms. Our illustration has been drawn from a group procured from the Messrs. Hooper, of the Central Avenue, Covent Garden. It consists of a mixed variety of purple and white crocuses, with a hyacinth in the centre, which latter flower will be coming into bloom just as the crocuses are over, by which arrangement a long succession of pleasing floral beauties may be secured.

In selecting a stock of crocus corns for next season, we would recommend the following kinds:—La Neige (large snow white), La Puritaine (cream, with purple tube), Suppurious (pale yellow), David Rizzio (deep purple), Pourpre superbe (globe-formed, purple), Urania (the richest of the purples), Sir W. Scott (the largest of all the species, white striped lilac), the Great Dutch Yellow (rich gold colour), and lastly, the Cloth of Gold (yellow striped rich brown).

But it is not with the crocus alone that our rooms may be made gay at this early season. By judicious preparation, the sparkling vernal tulip, and the delicate China primrose, and the elegant Persian iris, might be made to minister to the varieties of form and hue that should enrich our Buhl "jardiniere," or simple flower-stand, or simpler window-sill, with the gay-coated heralds of the coming summer. If preparations have not been already made some few months back, the only course open to us now is to resort to the nurserymen, who have all these plants in a proper state of development.

However, to show what may be done in chamber gardening, we must suppose that all the necessary preparations for a supply of spring and summer flowers have been made, either at home or through the medium of a nurseryman, and we will then proceed to explain the nature of the beautiful effects that may be produced with their aid.

The fascinating effect produced by the lavish introduction of growing flowers, as a medium of decoration in the Crystal Palace, has tended in a very remarkable manner to popularise, and thus render more general and tasteful, the practice of flower culture, as a means of natural and exquisite ornament in the rooms of our own homes. Mr. Henderson, the eminent nurseryman of Pine Apple Place, informs us that since the opening of the Crystal Palace, when the public first saw the fairy-like effect produced by the graceful suspended baskets filled with flowers growing in beautiful luxuriance, the demand for plants for the decoration of rooms has increased in a marked degree; and at his establishment we saw many such baskets, some of an elaborate and expensive character, undergoing the process of being filled with plants of a suitably pendulous character.

In our next article, we shall describe several kinds of pendant baskets, some with improvements of our own suggestion; these we shall accompany with illustrative designs, and a copious list of beautiful plants of "pendant habit," best suited to that kind of culture.

THE LATE CALAMITOUS COLLISION IN THE CHANNEL.

A REPORT has been sent to the Board of Trade from the gentlemen charged with the late official investigation into the circumstances of the loss of the Josephine Willis by collision with the Mangerton steamer. Mr. Yardley's report is to the effect that if the Josephine Willis had not mistaken the nature of the bright light which the officer saw upon the Mangerton first coming in view, and if he had followed the "rule of the road" as prescribed by the Merchant Shipping Act, this accident would have been avoided. Still he considers this mistake excusable from the laziness of the atmosphere, and having starboarded his helm upon the assumption that it was the Dungeness Light, the red light then became visible, and soon after the green light of the steamer. He thinks even then that the accident might have been avoided if the steamer had, instead of porting, starboarded her helm. Mr. Yardley complains of the insufficient light carried by the Josephine Willis, but considers that neither party were altogether blameable as to the collision.

Captain Robertson, who assisted Mr. Yardley in his investigation, differs from him in this respect—that he lays all the blame of the collision on the Josephine Willis, in not porting her helm when she saw the bright light and the red light, which is the port light of the steamer. He also condemns most strongly the use of a lantern like that carried by the Josephine Willis, which, from having a faint green light on the starboard side, could not possibly be seen at any distance; and he speaks of the disgraceful state of the boats, which were so placed that they could not be lowered or made fit for use sufficiently early.

During the investigation, the following praiseworthy conduct on the part of two of the witnesses was brought to light.

James Newham, a sailor, aged 20, who had been at sea seven years, was a passenger in the Mangerton. After the collision he and a shipmate helped to remove cargo from the fore part of the vessel. I then, he says, went aft to the quarter boat with Anderson. I got down the stern tackle, and Anderson followed me, and a boy in the boat went up and got on deck. I sung out for more hands to go off to the Josephine Willis, but could get none. The plug was out of the boat, and she was filling fast when my shipmate called out for the plug, and the steward threw it to him. On the way to the Josephine Willis, we picked up a man named Scott, and saved him. He was on a life buoy. We went round the stern of the sinking vessel, and found nine or ten persons on the mizen-mast, and took them all off.

In answer to Captain Robertson, the witness proceeded:—When I and Anderson went into the boat, we did it of our own accord to save human life. I asked the second mate of the steamer for more hands, and he would not let us have any, and told us to go by ourselves. His words were, "Go with what you have." There were only us two. No one suggested to go back to the ship to save more lives. The captain of the steamer said nothing to us. He did not give any directions to any one to go off in boats to save life that I could hear. The second mate said, "Take care of yourselves, and do the best you can," when I asked him for more hands. There were four on the boat, and if we had had two more hands we could have reached the Josephine Willis much sooner. More lives might have been saved if other boats had been sent off from the Mangerton.

Mr. Yardley: I wish everybody had done their duty as you and your shipmate have done.

John Anderson, ordinary seaman, late of the Bristol, confirmed the evidence of Newham in every respect. He put his finger in the plug-hole of the boat to prevent her sinking until the steward pitched him the plug. The boat was then making water fast. There were no thovs to the boat, and he sung out for them, and the second mate brought them to him. He got no orders from any one to go to the wreck. He did not go a second time, because when he left the Josephine Willis she was under water, and he could see no more persons to be saved on leaving her. He was quite sure there was no plug, and no thovs (a pin or place for oars to turn in) when he got into the boat. He was 19 years of age.

Captain Robertson: Leave your addresses before you quit London. Your conduct on this occasion will not be forgotten.

AN ADVERTISEMENT in the "Athenaeum" offers the library of an "accomplished nonagenarian" for sale. The expression, "accomplished nonagenarian," has excited many comments, and is generally objected to, both as pedantic and as suggesting a highly venerable dandy. We should ourselves object to such expressions as "elegant octogenarian," or "septuagenarian of distinction;" but in the use of a nonagenarian the epithet "accomplished" must always be applicable; for the fact of having accomplished ninety years of existence is in itself an accomplishment that very few of us will ever have the opportunity of calling attention to.

THE BODY OF A LITTLE GIRL was, on Monday, found floating, with her dress, in the New River, near Sadler's Wells Theatre; and, about the same time, body of a female infant, stated to be only a few days old, was found in a k under the arch of one of the new vaults on the line from Farringdon Street Coppiece Row.

OUR INQUIRY IN CONNECTION WITH LIFE ASSURANCE.

(Continued from our last Number.)

OFFICE NO. XVII.

Our informant considered that the offices suffered much from fraudulent assurances, while he denied that the public, except in very rare instances, ever suffered from fraudulent companies. It was easier, perhaps, for an individual to deceive a company than for a company to deceive the public. He could not tell us of many cases of poisoning for the sake of assurance money, but he knew of several cases in which assurance money had been obtained under very suspicious circumstances. In these cases the company had preferred to pay rather than advance facts, which, from the gravity of their nature, ought not to be brought forward unless they could be most clearly substantiated. He considered that if the offices would sometimes boldly refuse to pay, at the same time stating their reasons in a private communication, they would in certain cases not only save money to themselves, but also do good to the public. He knew a case in which an office was applied to, under circumstances more than suspicious, for payment of an insurance policy. The secretary refused point-blank to pay a farthing.

"Do you mean, then," inquired the applicant, "to insinuate?" "Yes, I do," replied the secretary, without waiting for the termination of the sentence, whereupon the claimant walked out of the office, and never more returned.

Our informant did not consider the young offices did so much harm as was generally asserted. They made life assurance much more general than it ever could have been without them, and offices which did the most business could of course offer the greatest advantages. At the same time, the system of agency might of course be carried too far. Some of the agents had such large per centages allowed them that they could afford in their turn to pay sub-agents. These latter, however, too often made it their aim to get as many lives as possible, with a view to increasing their own profits; and he had known cases in which the sub-agent, if not the agent, had acted in collusion with the medical referee and the person effecting the assurance, in order to defraud the company.

A case had come to his knowledge to which sufficient attention had never been called. A gentleman applied to insure the life of his wife for £5,000. He had a direct interest in her life, as the lady was in the receipt of an annuity, which at her death went to her child, who, at the time of the application being made, was about a twelvemonth old. The husband made no secret of his wife being of a delicate constitution; he, indeed, laid more stress upon that fact (or alleged fact) than either the medical referee or the medical officer of the assurance company.

The examination, which was made with particular care, on account of the statement of the husband as to the delicate condition of his wife's health, was quite satisfactory to the medical officer, and the company which he represented. The life was accepted, and at the usual rate of premium, the solicitude of the husband being attributed by the medical officer simply to an excess of conjugal affection. The wife had occasionally suffered from nervous headaches, but the stethoscopic examination had established that her lungs and heart were in a perfectly healthy state, and she had never been attacked by any serious illness. The husband, upon being requested to state whether he had any reason to suspect that his wife was, or had been, labouring under any indisposition which she might have concealed from her ordinary medical attendant, replied positively in the negative, and went on to explain that when he said his wife was "delicate," he simply meant that she was of a very nervous temperament.

It was understood (and the insurance was effected in accordance with that understanding) that the husband and wife were about to visit the United States, where the husband had already resided for several years. A few days after the payment of the first premium, the husband, wife, and child, accompanied by the wife's maid, set sail for New York, where the wife (as was afterwards stated by the lady's maid) imagined they were to reside for some months. They had not, however, been more than a week in New York, when the husband expressed his intention of proceeding to New Orleans with his wife.

Knowing that this was the unhealthy season, the wife inquired whether it would not be imprudent to go there, expressing also great anxiety about the child, who was far from strong, and might fall a victim to the almost pestilential atmosphere of the city which it was proposed to visit.

The husband admitted the justice of his wife's remarks—so far as regarded the child; and even made them the pretext for leaving it behind with the lady's maid, for whom it had conceived a great affection. The infant, with the servant, was entrusted to the care of an old nurse who lived near New York, and the husband and wife started for New Orleans.

The wife did not understand a word of French, but nevertheless the husband took her to live on the French side of the city. The wife wrote one letter to the lady's maid, in which she gave some directions respecting the child, and also stated that fever was very prevalent, adding that her husband had nothing to fear, as, from his long previous residence in New Orleans, he had become "acclimatised," while she herself was assured by him that she would be quite safe if she only attended to the directions as to diet, &c., which he gave her.

Whatever these directions were, she died of fever, a certificate to that effect being duly signed by the French physician who attended her during her illness.

The husband soon afterwards went to New York, and thence to London, where he presented himself at the insurance office, and had an interview with the secretary, which did not, however, end in a satisfactory manner. The company declared its intention of delaying payment in order to make inquiries, and succeeded in obtaining from the lady's maid the letter which the wife had addressed to her from New Orleans.

The husband threatened to bring an action, and the office threatened to defend it; but, as it turned out that the husband had made some trifling misrepresentation as to the amount of the annuity enjoyed by his wife during her lifetime, and also as to the manner in which it was afterwards to be applied to the benefit of the child, both sides took advantage of this point to effect a compromise, and the husband, on payment of some law expenses, received from the company a sum of two thousand pounds.

OFFICE NO. XVIII.

The secretary of this office, while admitting the evident advantage to the public of policies being always treated as indisputable, and the indirect advantage which companies must gain from the public having a firm faith in this indisputability, at the same time complained that offices were at present frequently forced to pay claims under very suspicious circumstances, simply to avoid the stigma of litigiousness. His and other offices had certainly paid money on the asserted decease of more than one person who was still alive. An Irish family—who, however, came to England and took no advantage of the Irish law as regards assignments—had obtained money from the office with which he was connected in a most extraordinary manner. A Irish gentleman and his three sons were in urgent want of money, and it was rumoured amongst their friends that one of the family was to insure his life for the benefit of the others. The father did, in fact, effect an insurance on his life for a large sum, which, on his death, would be payable to his sons as his heirs-at-law. The family at this period resided at a watering-place which was but thinly inhabited, and where the father soon succeeded in making himself conspicuous by means of a gray dressing-gown, in which he was in the habit of walking about.

The gentleman in the gray dressing-gown was soon known to every inhabitant, nor were his habits any great secret from them. For instance, it was known that he made a practice of bathing every day, during which operation the gray dressing-gown was left on the sands. One morning, as the tide was going out, the gentleman in the gray dressing-gown was seen walking along the beach with towels under his arm, and an hour afterwards the towels, and, above all, the gray dressing-gown, were found on the sand, but the gentleman was missing.

As it was evidently impossible to drag the German Ocean for the body, there was not much trouble in obtaining the money from the company. The death was publicly announced, and generally believed.

What became of the gray dressing-gown is not known, but the gentleman who distinguished himself so much by wearing it, was afterwards seen in Paris in company with his three sons.

(To be continued.)

THE MURDER OF THE GIRL AT ISLINGTON.

PRISON the inquest on the body of Celestina Christmas, the murdered child, Mr. Gobie, brother-in-law to the prisoner, said that on Saturday evening, between ten and eleven o'clock, he followed his sister-in-law and deceased to the house, 18, Linton Street, in consequence of a statement made by the deceased, who came home on the Saturday evening previous quite tipsy, and said that her mother had endeavoured to drown her, but, being so drunk, she was unable to point out the spot.

Rachel Mont, the prisoner's servant, stated in addition to her former evidence, that when she got up in the morning, she went to the cell with a light, and found her mistress was up, and was horrified to behold the murdered child, but said nothing, as she was frightened, and knew her sister Rebecca was coming, when she would inform her of it. When her sister knocked at the door her mistress ran from the back kitchen before witness into the area, to see what was. She said, "It is your sister, but don't ask her down stairs." As soon as she let her into the passage she told her the particulars, when her sister said she did not believe it. She came down, got some coals from the next cellar, and again looked into the other where the body lay, and repeated her former story. When her sister returned home, information was communicated to the police. Witness said her mistress had threatened to beat her head open with a poker on several occasions. The Coroner intimated that he was willing to examine any witnesses as to the state of the prisoner's mind, but none appeared, and the jury at once returned a verdict of Wilful Murder against Celestina Sonner.

At the conclusion of the inquest, a strong feeling was manifested against Rachel Mont and her sister, by whose testimony the accused is committed on the charge of wilful murder on her own child, and it was only by the interference of the police they were saved from personal violence. Much conjecture has been indulged in as to the motives which induced this outrage on the girl in question. It is supposed that the populace entertained the idea that Rachel Mont, by calling out for aid on the Saturday evening, might have saved the life of the unfortunate deceased; but to expect a mere child to have taken such a step, under circumstances sufficient to have alarmed a grown-up person, is simply absurd. The prisoner was re-examined before the Magistrate on Tuesday last, and committed to Newgate for trial.

MURDER OF A GAMEKEEPER.

DREADFUL ACCIDENT AT THE EXAMINATION OF THE ACCUSED PERSONS. LAST week, an under-gamekeeper of Sir J. T. Tyrrell, M.P., named Hales, was shot by poachers, in a wood near Chelmsford. It seems that on Monday night, Wisbey, Sir John Tyrrell's keeper, accompanied by his son and Hales, went out to watch the wood. Several men armed with guns having been discovered, Wisbey and his son went towards the spot, when a gun was fired, and Hales was instantly killed. The poachers took to flight, but one of them was captured. His name is Thorogood. Two of his brothers, and two labourers named Chalk and Guider, were afterwards apprehended. The deceased, who was in the prime of life, has left a wife and eight children.

During the examination of the prisoners at the Shire Hall, Chelmsford, a sad catastrophe, accompanied with the loss of one life and the maiming of several other persons, occurred by the falling of a part of the central stone staircase of the building, owing to the heavy pressure of the crowds upon it, who were endeavouring to reach the room where the proceedings were being held. These stairs are composed of stone steps, embedded in the wall at one end, and resting at the outward point upon each other, edge upon edge, so as to carry out the principle of the arch. The balusters first gave way, and from the weight of the crowd pressing on the outer edge, the third flight of stone steps broke in two at the opposite end, leaving a portion in the wall. The whole mass of people suddenly fell with the severed stones on to the flight of stairs beneath. When the rubbish was cleared away, Mr. J. E. Moss, about eighteen years of age, was discovered lying upon one of the fallen stones, with his face partly cut open, his skull crushed, and his brains scattered about. Captain Haselcote was injured, though not seriously. A boy, about thirteen years old, had a leg broken; and Robert Baker, Sergeant Rogers, James Brewster, and Mr. Coverdale, of Ingatestone Hall, were all of them slightly injured. The staircase having been thus cut off from the court, ladders were procured, and the prisoners and others inside were taken out through the windows and roof. The prisoners were afterwards examined in the Crown Court, and were remanded.

WIFE-MURDER AT PORTSMOUTH.—William Ansell, steward in the navy, lately belonging to her Majesty's ship Albion, 99, was brought, on Monday, before the Portsmouth magistrates, charged with wilfully murdering his wife, Amelia Ansell. The chief evidence against the prisoner was that of the neighbours in the two houses adjoining his residence in Kettering Street, Landport. It appears that they distinctly heard a quarrel between the prisoner and his wife, and ultimately the exclamation from the latter, "Help, murder; oh, give me time to make my peace." Immediately after, the report of fire-arms was heard. The neighbours, on going into the house, secured the prisoner, and then sent for medical assistance, but it was of no avail. The police found a six-barrelled Colt's revolver in the house, five barrels of which were loaded, and the other empty. The cause assigned for the commission of the act, is a belief on the part of the prisoner of his wife's infidelity. He was committed for trial at the Winchester Assizes.

HIGHWAY ROBBERY AND MURDER ON TOWER HILL.—Last Sunday morning, about two o'clock, a young man, named George Brown, was stopped at the corner of the Minories, Tower Hill, by two men and a woman, who knocked him down with a life-preserver, and, after ransacking his pockets, escaped. The poor fellow was removed to the London Hospital, but was rapidly sinking. Every possible assistance was rendered by the house-surgeons, but he expired at four o'clock.

A MAGISTRATE CHARGED WITH AN ATTEMPT TO SHOOT A MAN.—Dr. Pigott, formerly a Nottingham magistrate, and mayor, has been of late in pecuniary difficulties, and on Thursday of last week the sheriff's officers proceeded to his residence at Puddington, to seize his effects. They obtained an entrance, when Dr. Pigott ordered them to leave, at the same time presenting a pistol and threatening to shoot them if they did not. Colton attempted to seize the pistol, and got his finger under the trigger, which fortunately prevented it from going off. George Greasley, one of the other officers, then took up the poker and struck at the Doctor, who received the blow on his head, and was knocked down. The pistol was then wrested from him, and on examination it was found to be loaded with ball. The magistrates have granted a warrant for the Doctor's apprehension. The injuries he received in the affray, however, are of a serious character, and he is at present unable to be moved. Greasley has been apprehended on a charge of having attempted to murder Dr. Pigott; the Doctor's version of the affair being that Greasley struck when he had not the pistol. Greasley was brought up before the magistrates last Saturday, but was liberated on finding bail to the amount of £100.

SUICIDE BY A LIVERPOOL MERCHANT.—Mr. William Tatham, of the firm of Messrs. Hill, Tatham, and Co., brokers, Lancaster Buildings, Liverpool, was discovered one morning last week, in a closet below the Exchange News Rooms, with his throat cut. Medical gentlemen were at once called in; who ordered him to be kept in a vault under the News-room, as he was too weak to be removed. Upon examination it was found that the wounds were evidently self-inflicted by a razor—one being found on the floor, and another in a case on the seat of the closet. The melancholy event is stated to have been caused by heavy losses. On Friday night the unfortunate gentleman was removed to the Northern Hospital, where he gradually improved; but on Sunday unfavourable symptoms set in, and he died the following day. The deceased was a young man most respectably connected, and had only been married a few months. At the inquest, on Tuesday last, a verdict of Temporary Insanity was returned.

DARING ROBBERY AT GLASGOW.—A most daring robbery was perpetrated last week in the head office of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Bank. A young man employed in the counting-house of a respectable firm, entered the bank to retire a bill due by his employers for £250 odd. He proceeded to the tellers' table, and commenced counting the money in the usual way. £250 of the money was in notes, which, being counted and found correct, was laid upon the table. The balance was in silver, to count a pound of which he retired about a yard's length from the table. He had just done so when a man, who had no doubt been watching all his movements, stepped between him and the counter, and very innocently asked him what bank that was. The young man politely answered the question. The interrogator asked several other questions, and then walked out of the bank. Upon turning again to the tellers' table, the young man found that the notes had been taken up, and no one had seen them. It was at once suspected that an accomplice of the stranger had stolen them, but the latter could not be found, and no clue has been obtained to the thief.

FORGERY BY A SUNDAY-SCHOOL TEACHER.—John King Gurney, a confectioner at Uxbridge, who had hitherto not only borne an excellent character, but was a strict member of an Independent chapel and a Sunday-school teacher, is in custody for forging bills of exchange by wholesale, which he got discounted by a bank and a solicitor. He forged Mr. David Bassett's indorsement to ten bills, for £360 in the aggregate, and got them all discounted by the Uxbridge Old Bank; and he counterfeited the names of seven or eight other persons.

DEATH FROM FIRE ON BOARD A DUBLIN STEAMER.—Last week, a child aged nine years, a passenger on board one of the Dublin steamers, at the wharf, Upper East Smithfield, went into the cabin to warm herself, and fell asleep by the fire. Before she awoke her dress ignited. Her screams brought several of the crew to her assistance, but her body was much burnt, and she expired shortly after her admission to the London Hospital.

PERSONATING A SPECIAL JURYMEN.—On the calling of a special jury in the Court of Queen's Bench last week, when the name of "David Wilson" was called, a person stepped into the box, and said he was "David Wilson in question; but some doubts arising, he was not sworn; and on Mrs. Wilson being sent for, it appeared that her husband had gone to Calcutta. The defendant was then ordered into custody, and the following day Lord Campbell committed him to her Majesty's jail of Newgate for three calendar months.

POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

FREDERICK QUENNEL, a short, dark-looking, middle-aged man, was brought before the Southwark Police Court on Monday, charged with attempting to murder William H. Groom, near the stage door of the Surrey Theatre, by striking him on the head with an iron rod.

A police constable said that on Saturday night he was on duty near the front doors of the Surrey Theatre, in the Rotherhithe Road, when his attention was called towards the stage entrance by hearing cries of "police" and "murder." He at once proceeded to the spot, and on entering by the stage door, the prisoner was given into his custody for attempting to murder Mr. Harcum, whom he saw lying bleeding on a table. Medical assistance was immediately procured, and the injured man was taken home. The police constable then received a long iron rod, sharp at one end, and with a ring at the other end, which he was informed the prisoner had committed the outrage with. He then took him to the police station in Tower Street, and he was charged with the offence.

The Magistrate asked whether the complainant was in attendance. The constable replied that he was not. He was not able to leave his bed. Witness here produced a medical certificate to that effect.

The Magistrate inquired whether there was any one in court who could give any evidence.

Mary Hall, a woman employed in the dressing-rooms of the Surrey Theatre, said she was sitting in her room on Saturday night, when Quennell came in and stood there a few minutes. He seemed then rather excited, but she took no particular notice of him. He quitted the room suddenly, and entered another one, when Harcum came past, and she saw the prisoner strike him on the back of the head with something like a stick. Harcum then fell bleeding, and she saw a long iron rod taken from the prisoner. Considerable excitement was caused in consequence, and the proprietors of the theatre sent for last witness, and gave the prisoner into custody.

The Magistrate asked what the prisoner did at the theatre. Witness replied that he was a painter, and employed behind the stage. He had on a previous occasion quarrelled with Harcum, and threatened to serve him out.

The Magistrate asked if there was any other witness who actually saw the blow struck with the iron rod.

The constable replied, there was a witness who took the iron rod from him after he had struck the blow, but he was not in attendance. In fact, that was all the evidence he could produce at present.

The Magistrate asked the prisoner whether he wished to ask the witnesses any questions.

He replied in a very sullen tone, that he had nothing to say to them.

The Magistrate then remanded him for a week.

A SCOTS FUSILIER LAYING OUT HIM RIGHT AND LEFT—William Neelen and Edward Rose, two privates of the Scots Fusilier Guards, were charged, on Monday, at the Westminster Police Court, with somewhat outrageous conduct.

It appeared that on the afternoon of Saturday last, John Thomas Watson, a very respectable-looking man, 73 years of age, an inmate of Emery Hill's Almshouses, Westminster, was passing down Victoria Street, when the Fusiliers and two women, all apparently in a state of intoxication, emerged from Orchard Street, followed by a number of boys yelling and hooting. Neelen was swinging his belt over his head among the crowd, and the other soldier was running after the boys with an uplifted cane. Suddenly the old man received two violent blows on the head from the buckle of Neelen's belt, which sent him reeling against the wall, and some gentlemen who had witnessed the assault followed his assailant and gave him in charge.

A policeman proved seeing the Fusiliers and their companions leave Orchard Street, as described, and assault the complainant. When he took Neelen into custody he struck him several times, but did not hurt him much. Rose made several violent efforts to rescue the other prisoner, and two or three persons in the mob were also assaulted by the defendants.

Neelen denied that he had struck the aged complainant, and Rose said that he only quietly tried to get the other to the barracks.

The Magistrate said that he looked upon conflicts of this description as very serious matters, for there was no knowing where the mischief commencing in a drunken scuffle with the military might end, especially when their conflict was with the civil power, and the discipline of the soldier left him less excuse for a violation of the law and resistance to the authorities than might be urged by any other class of persons. It was quite clear that Neelen did not know what mischief he might do in striking indiscriminately with such a dangerous weapon as his belt, and when Rose, who was proved not to have been so much affected by drink as his companion, found him in custody, he used his best efforts to liberate him by force.

Neelen was fined £5, and committed for two months in default, for the assault on Watson, and a further imprisonment of fourteen days for attacking the constable; and Rose was fined 20s., or fourteen days, for the attempted rescue.

ABSCONDING OF A BANKRUPT CHARGED WITH FRAUD AND PERJURY—On Tuesday, information was forwarded to the different Metropolitan and City police-stations that a merchant named John Claus, late of Liverpool, had absconded, charged with embezzling part of his estate and effects, and also with the offence of perjury, in wilfully and corruptly giving false evidence upon his examination before the Court of Bankruptcy.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

The new loan of £5,000,000 having been taken at 90, and as the prospects of peace are considered very favourable, an increased amount of money business has been transacted in the consol market this week, and prices have steadily improved. The statement made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in reference to the financial position of the country, is looked upon in a satisfactory light, although many parties in the City have assumed that another loan of £5,000,000 will be necessary, though peace may be shortly restored. Evidently, our expenses are enormous, and large sums have yet to be paid to various contractors. Notwithstanding that we are to have a funding of £5,000,000 exchequer bills, the unfunded debt has been by no means buoyant, at 2s. dis. to 1s. prem. However, peace will, in our opinion, run the bills up to a high premium.

A great security of money for commercial purposes is still complained of, and the rates of discount have continued high. The continuous large shipments of bullion to India and China are productive of some uneasiness, because they prevent the possibility of our meeting any adverse rate of exchange abroad by the shipment of silver. Gold, therefore, still goes to the Continent, though in small quantities.

The 3 per cent. consols for money have been done at 91½; for the account, 91½ to 92½. The new 3 per cent. consols have realised 92½ to 93; and the reduced, 92½ to 93. The 5 per cent. consols have dealt in at 114. The consols scrip has varied from 13 to 1½ prem.; and the exchequer bills scrip, 1½ to 1½ prem. Bank stock, 21s.; India stock, 212½; long annuities, 1885, 16½; exchequer bills, 2s. dis. to 1s. prem.; India bonds, 3s. to 4s. dis.; exchequer bonds, 98.

A full average business has been transacted in most foreign bonds. Turkish 6 per cents have marked 95½; the 4 per cents, guaranteed, 100½; Brazilian 5 per cents, 100; Mexican 3 per cents, 20½; Peruvian 3 per cents, 56½; Russian 5 per cents, 105; Sardinian 5 per cents, 89½; Venezuela Active 29½. We understand that a large portion of the 3,000,000 dollars of the indemnity money to be paid to Mexico by the United States will be received here on account of the dividends.

Joint-stock Bank shares have continued firm, as follows:—Bank of London, 65; City, 68½; English, Scottish, and Australia Chartered, 16½; London and County, 37 ex div.; London and Westminster, 45½; New South Wales, 37½; Provincial of Ireland, 52; Royal British, 50.

Transactions in Australian Agricultural shares have taken place at 25½; Canada Company's Bonds, 108½; Crystal Palace, 2½; General Screw Steam Shipping Company, 17; Peninsula and Oriental Steam, 63; ditto new, 14½; South Australian Land, 35½; St. John del Rey Mining Company, 27; Colne Copper, 67½.

All railway shares have been firm in price, although the transactions in them have been very moderate. Caledonian, 57½; Eastern Counties, 97; East Lancashire, 72½; Great Northern, 95½; Great Western, 59½; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 82½; London and Brighton, 97½; London and North Western, 102; London and South Western, 93½; Midland, 70½; North British, 29½; South Eastern, 60½.

METROPOLITAN MARKETS.

CORN EXCHANGE—About an average supply of English wheat has arrived up to our market this week, coastwise and by land carriage. Most kinds have moved off slowly, but without leading to any quotable change in prices. Foreign wheat—the imports of which have been very moderate, though there have been large arrivals off the coast—have sold heavily, yet we have no change to notice in the quotations. The barley trade has been firm, at very full prices. Malt, however, has been extremely heavy, at the late decline. The imports of foreign oats having been large, the oat trade has flourished, at 6d. per quarter less money. Beans, peas, and rye have moved off slowly, at barely stationary prices.

ENGLISH CURRENCY—Essex and Kent White Wheat, 60s. to 82s.; ditto, Red, 54s. to 77s.; Malting Barley, 32s. to 38s.; Distilling ditto, 32s. to 35s.; Grinding ditto, 31s. to 36s.; Malt, 58s. to 77s.; Rye, 48s. to 50s.; Feed Oats, 23s. to 28s.; Potato ditto, 25s. to 31s.; Tick Beans, 33s. to 36s.; Pigeon, 39s. to 46s.; White Peas, 42s. to 46s.; Maple, 31s. to 37s.; Gray, 33s. to 37s. per quarter. Town-made Flour, 65s. to 67s.; Town Households, 55s. to 58s.; Norfolk and Suffolk, 50s. to 52s. per 280lbs.

CATTLE—The supplies of beasts having been very moderate, all kinds have sold briskly, at an advance in the quotations from 2d. to 4d. per 10lbs. There has been an improved feeling in the mutton trade, at 2d. per 10lbs. more money. The veal trade has been less active. Pigs have sold to a moderate extent, at late rates. Beef, from 5s. 4d. to 5s.; mutton, 3s. 4d. to 5s.; veal, 4s. 4d. to 6s.; pork, 3s. 6d. to 4s. 10d. per 10lbs. to sink the offal.

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL—There has been a decided improvement in the trade generally, as follows:—Beef, from 2s. 8d. to 4s. 4d.; Mutton, 2s. 8d. to 4s. 4d.; Veal, 3s. 10d. to 5s. 4d.; Pork, 3s. 2d. to 4s. 10d. per 10lbs. by the carcase.

TEA—We continue to have a very inactive demand for all kinds of Tea, and in some instances, prices have a downward tendency. Congou, 9d. to 2s. 6d.; Ning Yung and Oolong, 10d. to 1s. 9d.; Souchong, 9d. to 2s. 8d.; Flowery Pekoe, 1s. 5d. to 3s. 6d.; Capar, 1s. to 1s. 4d.; Scented Capar, 1s. to 1s. 8d.; Orange Pekoe, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 4d.; Scented Orange Pekoe, 1s. 9d. to 2s. 9d.; Twankay, 8d. to 1s. 2d.; Hyson Skin, 7d. to 1s.; Hyson, 1s. 5d. to 2s. 9d.; Young Hyson, 9d. to 3s.; Imperial, 1s. to 2s. 9d.; Gunpowder, 1s. to 3s. 6d.; Assam, 1s. to 4s. 4d. per lb.

SUGAR—A speculative demand having sprung up for nearly all kinds of raw sugar, prices have advanced 1s. to 2s. per cwt., at which several large parcels have been disposed of, for shipment to the Continent. Refined goods have changed hands steadily—brown lumps, at 49s. to 49s. 6d.; and grocery, 50s. to 52s. per cwt. Crushed has realised 32s., free on board.

MOLASSES—Our market has become firmer; but West India qualities may be had at 16s. to 19s. per cwt. The supply on offer is but moderate.

COFFEE—The demand generally is confined to limited quantities, at last week's quotations. Good ord. native Ceylon is freely offered at 51s. per cwt.

COCOA—There is a fair inquiry for this article, at full prices. Red Trinidad has sold at 42s. to 57s.; Gray, 45s. to 48s.; Grenada, 44s. to 49s.; Bahia, 39s. to 42s. per cwt.

RICE—This article is very dull, and lower to purchase. In cleaned qualities so little is doing that the quotations are almost nominal.

FRUIT—Currants are in fair request, at full quotations. Valencia Raisins are selling at 39s. to 44s. per cwt. Turkey figs are worth 36s. to 70s.

PROVISIONS—Fine qualities of Butter are steady, and the quotations are supported. Inferior kinds are a dull sale. The Bacon market is heavy, and prices have a downward tendency. Hams, Lard, &c., are very dull.

SPIRITS—There is a moderate sale for rum, at full quotations. Proof lowland, 2s. 2d. to 2s. 4d.; East India, 2s. to 2s. 2d. per gallon. In brandy very little is doing. Cognac, best brands of 1851, 10s. 4d. to 10s. 6d.; 1850, ditto, 10s. 5d. to 10s. 7d.; older, 11s. to 11s. 6d.; and low to middling, 6s. 6d. to 10s. 2d. per gallon. Gin, 17 under proof, 9s. 10d.; 2d. to 10s. 4d., and raw spirit 10s. 5d. per gallon; Geneva, 2s. 9d. to 3s. 8d.

COTTON—There is less activity in the demand for cotton. Importers, however, are firm, and the quotations are supported. Surat, 3½d. to 5d.; Bengal, 3½d. to 4d.; and Madras 3½d. to 4½d. per lb.

INDIGO—The sales have been concluded under most favourable auspices, the advance in prices being from 2d. to 1s. per lb.

WOOL—The sales of colonial wool continue to progress briskly, at 2d. to 3d. per lb. above previous quotations. English wools are held for more money.

HEMP AND FLAX—Russian hemp is dull. Petersburg clean is offering at £34 to £36; outshot, £32 to £34; half clean, £31 per ton. Flax is inactive, yet the quotations are well supported.

SALTPETRE—The transactions are very limited, at the late decline in value.

SILK—China qualities have advanced 2s. per lb., with a brisk market.

METALS—Scotch pig iron has sold steadily, at 68s. to 69s. for mixed numbers. Rails, at the works, are quoted at £9 5s. to £9 10s.; common bars, £8 to £9 5s.; Staffordshire, £10 10s. to £10 15s.; sheets, single, in London, £11 10s. to £12 per ton. Tin moves off slowly. Banca, 130s. to 130s. 6d.; Straits, 128s. 6d. to 129s. 6d.; British, 129s. to 130s.; and refined, 134s. to 135s. Tin plates are active. 1 C. coke, 30s. to 31s.; 1 X. ditto, 30s. 6d. to 37s.; 1 C. charcoal, 36s. to 36s. 6d.; and 1 X. 42s. per box. Lead is very active. British pig, £26 10s. to £27; Spanish, £24 10s. to £25; milled steel, £26 15s. to £27 per ton. Spelter is tolerably firm at £23 10s. to £23 15s.; zinc, £30 10s. to £31 per ton.

OILS—Lined oil is steady, at 36s. per cwt. on the spot. Rape has advanced 2d. In other oils very little is doing. Cocoa-nut, 37s. to 38s.; palm, 39s. 6d. to 41s. per cwt. Turpentine is steady. Rough, 9s. 6d. to 10s.; English spirits, 33s. to 33s. 6d.; and American, 34s. 6d. per cwt.

TALLOW—The business doing is limited. P.Y.C. on the spot, 58s. to 58s. 6d., and for the last three months, 50s. 6d. to 51s. per cwt. Rough fat, 2s. 10d. per 8lbs. The stock of tallow is now 24,316 casks, against 35,511 casks in 1855; 36,979 in 1854; 36,956 in 1853; and 61,226 in 1852.

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LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22.

BANKRUPTS—HENRY MARTIN AND SAMUEL FOOT, Battersea Fields, brewers—ERNEST DAY, Edgware Road, builder—WILLIAM SMITH SLATER, Birkenhead, timber merchant—THOMAS DAVIES, Abergavenny, butcher—EDWIN RODGERS AND JOHN FROST RODGERS, Walsall, Staffordshire, grocers—JOSIAH JOSEPH HATCH, Friday Street, furrier—THOMAS TURTON CLARKE AND JAMES WADE, Huddersfield, woollen yarn manufacturers—WM. PAYNE, Tormyn Street, St. James's, hotel keeper—MARY CAROLINA BLOXSONE, Cardiff, wine and spirit merchant.

SCOTCH SEQUESTERATIONS—JOHN GALBRAITH, Glasgow, miller.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26.

BANKRUPTS—SIMON COHEN AND JOSEPH LUBLINE, Hatton Garden, goldsmiths and jewellers—JOHN KING GUR-

SEY, Ushridge, baker—SARAH BREWIN, Wisbech, miller—GEORGE C. ARK MEPP, Leeds, grocer—SAMUEL HARVEY, Cardiff, Gloucester, grocer—WILLIAM SMITH SLATER, Birkenhead, timber merchant—LOUIS BIENSTINGEL, Broad Street Buildings, merchant—GEORGE GOODRICH, Dursley, Gloucestershire, chemist and druggist—JOHN TRAVIS, Shaw, Lancashire, cotton spinner—JOHN OWEN, Salford, baker—GEORGE LAMIN, Sheffield, scale presser—JOHN SMITH, Rochdale, grocer—HENRY COOP AND WILLIAM COOP, Chester, Lancashire, silk manufacturers—HENRY HENTON, Dunstable, Bedford, straw hat manufacturer—THOMAS KNOWLES, Seymour Street, Euston Square, chemist and druggist.

SCOTCH SEQUESTERATIONS—JOHN McLEOD, Glasgow, bookseller—DUNCAN GEO. FORBES McDONALD, Edinburgh, engineer—JOHN MACFARLANE SMITH, Glasgow, merchant—RICHARD CAMPBELL and Co., Bowfield, Renfrewshire, bleachers.

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Tearing my nerves w' bitter twang,
Like rack'd engines.

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TO the FREE and INDEPENDENT ELECTORS of the BOROUGH of BOSTON.

GENTLEMEN,—Understanding that a vacancy will shortly arise, through the retirement of one of your respected members, the Honourable Henry H. Adams, I do now, at the request of a committee of the Free and Independent Electors of the Borough of Boston, and in pursuance of your ancient laws, in the Commons House of Parliament,

I offer myself upon independent liberal principles, and beg to state that my political views are generally in accordance with those held by the present Administration. I am a zealous advocate for the extension of education. I desire to see lessened those burdens which now press so heavily on the professional, commercial, and industrial classes, through our present unequal system of taxation. I am an uncompromising enemy of all sinces, and I will devote the best of my abilities to the removal of those flagrant cases of corruption which still so glaringly encroach upon the hard earnings of the tax-payers of these kingdoms. I am an opponent to all governmental schemes of centralisation. I desire to see the beneficial results of Free Trade more extensively carried out by further legislative enactments. I believe that there is an urgent necessity for a large and comprehensive improvement in our laws, the administration of which are now alike vexatious and unreasonably expensive.

With reference to the great question of the day, should the present negotiations for peace fail to arrive at a successful conclusion, I will support a vigorous prosecution of the war, with the entire strength and resources of the nation. I shall oppose any terms being accepted save those which shall in the fullest manner protect Europe from a renewal of the misadventures of that northern despotism which we have had to combat with our best blood and treasure. Should we have peace, I shall, nevertheless, always maintain the necessity of keeping our military and naval establishments upon a footing of thorough efficiency and organisation.

I consider that there is a loud and just demand for a large measure of military reform. I shall advise to greater inducements for enlistment by means of a more extensive system of promotion from the ranks being conceded to our gallant, though ill-rewarded soldiers; a more equitable reward for merit, valour, and long service, than can ever be secured under our present baneful system of purchase. I am an unflinching opponent of punishment by the lash, and shall endeavour to expunge from the Mutiny Act the power of awarding so degrading and debasing an infliction. Having retired from the army, I have devoted my best energies to the cause of the people; and the same anxiety for their happiness, and their moral and political elevation, which has already secured for my labours so large a share of popular approval, will still actuate me in my Parliamentary career, should you do me the honour to return me as your representative to the House of Commons. Having myself no professional objects of advancement to secure by a seat in that House, I shall fearlessly, and irrespective of all party influences, devote my whole time, thoughts, and energy, to the cause of reform in the State, the Church, the army, navy, and in every department of the public service.

I hope to have many opportunities of more thoroughly explaining my political views, during the personal canvass it will be my pleasure and duty to make in your borough.

In conclusion, considering it to be the bounden duty of a representative to faithfully watch over the local interests of his constituents, should you return me as your representative to Parliament, my best energies will always be placed at your disposal collectively and individually.—I have the honour to be, gentlemen, your faithful servant,

R. W. A. SLEIGH.
Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, Feb. 25th, 1856.

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